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Andhra Pradesh braces for cyclone as IMD issues high alert for 23 districts

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA/CHENNAI

To safety: Fishermen shifting their boats from the Kothapatnam shore in Prakasam district on Sunday evening. KOMMURI SRINIVAS

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Sunday put the entire administrative machinery on high alert as the India Meteorological Department issued red and orange alerts for 23 of the 26 districts in the State for Monday in view of Cyclone Montha.

The IMD said the deep depression over southeast Bay of Bengal was likely to intensify into a cyclonic storm by Monday morning. Thereafter, it was likely to intensify into a severe cyclonic storm by Tuesday morning and was very likely to cross the Andhra Pradesh coast between Machilipatnam and Kalingapatnam around Kakinada in the evening or night.

While crossing, the severe cyclonic storm could have a maximum wind speed of 90-100 kmph gusting to 110 kmph, it said. According to the IMD bulletin at 10 p.m., the deep depression lay about 780 km southeast of Kakinada and 790 km south-southeast of Visakhapatnam.

The Regional Meteorological Centre, Chennai, forecast light to moderate rain in a few places over the Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal regions. Heavy rain is likely to occur in isolated places in Chennai, Tiruvallur, Chengalpattu, Kancheepuram, Ranipet, Vellore, Villupuram, Kallakurichi, Cuddalore, Mayiladuthurai and Tiruvannamalai districts and Puducherry.

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India-ASEAN ties making steady progress, says PM

Modi says strong partnership is emerging as robust foundation for global stability, development; he announces further deepening of cooperation in the domain of maritime security in 2026

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

India-ASEAN strategic partnership has continued to prosper despite the prevailing "era of uncertainties", Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Sunday.

Delivering his opening remarks virtually at the 22nd ASEAN-India summit being held in the Malaysian capital of Kuala Lumpur, Mr. Modi described ASEAN as a "cultural partner" of India, and announced further deepening of India-ASEAN cooperation in the domain of maritime security in 2026.

"Even in this era of uncertainties, India-ASEAN comprehensive strategic partnership has continued to make steady progress. And this strong partnership of ours is emerging as a robust foundation for global stability and development," the Prime Minister said in his remarks that were telecast to the summit.

> Even in this era of uncertainties, India-ASEAN Comprehensive Strategic Partnership has continued to make steady progress. This strong partnership of ours is emerging as a robust foundation for global stability and development
>
> **NARENDRA MODI**
> Prime Minister

'Shared values'

Mr. Modi welcomed Timor-Leste as the newest member of ASEAN, and said India and ASEAN together represented nearly one-fourth of the global population and the two sides were connected by "historical ties and shared values".

"The 21st century is our century, the century of India and ASEAN," he said.

Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, who co-chaired the ASEAN-India summit, said India-ASEAN relationship was rooted in the "values of friendship, trust, and shared interests".

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Cong. targets PM as Trump repeats oil imports claim

NEW DELHI
Hours after U.S. President Donald Trump reiterated that India will cut down its imports of Russian oil "completely", the Congress criticised Prime Minister Narendra Modi, saying his "hugplomacy" was not visible in Kuala Lumpur. » PAGE 10

NEARBY

Govt. identifying land for shifting HC, says DKS

BENGALURU
Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Sunday disclosed that the State government is considering a request to shift the High Court to a new location and is in the process of identifying a suitable land. » PAGE 2

CM tells BTC to vacate premises

BENGALURU
Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has urged the Bangalore Turf Club authorities to move to Kunigal Stud Farm at the earliest and also withdraw a petition filed before the Supreme Court. » PAGE 2

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Ro-Ko — hitting the right notes and silencing the doubting Thomases

Rohit reunited with Nayar to turn the clock back and help him become the best version of himself; the ODI series in Australia saw the former skipper find form and steal the thunder at SCG along with his illustrious teammate Kohli

AFP

R. Kaushik

Rohit Sharma prone on the Queen's Park Oval turf on 29 June 2024, repeatedly pummelling the ground with his right hand, is one of Indian cricket's iconic images, on par with Kapil Dev lifting the 1983 World Cup trophy at the Lord's balcony and Mahendra Singh Dhoni's winning six off Nuwan Kulasekara in the 2011 World Cup final at the Wankhede.

The unusually exuberant public show of emotion from the Mumbaikar was understandable. It entailed ecstasy and delight, of course, but it was also fuelled by relief and redemption; it was the venting of frustrations coiled tightly inside for seven-and-a-half months. It was only minor compensation for stumbling at the final hurdle in the 50-over World Cup final in Ahmedabad the previous November, but compensation nevertheless.

Unlike Virat Kohli, his India teammate for more than a decade and a half, Rohit isn't renowned for attracting the spotlight for more than only his cricket. He does wear his heart on his sleeve and is given to the odd outburst, but it lasts no more than a few seconds and is immediately followed by a smile that takes away any perceived edge. Except when he is taking bowling attacks apart, Rohit is a mild-mannered, affable individual who keeps his emotions well in check.

It was, therefore, no surprise that there were no outlandish celebrations, no gravity-defying leap in the air, no first-clenching and bat-pointing, in the immediacy of his 33rd One-Day International century, at his cherished Sydney Cricket Ground on Saturday. Had he screamed his lungs out and waved his bat furiously in the direction of the dressing room or anywhere else, it would have been perfectly justified. Had he let off a few expletives, *ala* Kohli, it would have been laughed off as uncharacteristic but merited. But that really wouldn't have been Rohit, would it?

Change of guard

After three-and-a-half years masterminding India's fortunes across formats, this snappy three-match 50-over faceoff against Australia was Rohit's first outing in his new avatar, as *just* one of the players - inasmuch as he can be just one of the players.

Retired from T20Is after the spectacular triumph in the World Cup in Bridgetown which catalysed his assault on the Queen's Park Oval infield and from Tests after a disastrous last season which yielded just one half-century and a whopping six losses in eight Tests as batter and captain, Rohit was stripped of the ODI captaincy earlier this month.

This, despite the fact that he had led the country to the Champions Trophy crown in March, in India's last 50-over engagement. Despite the fact that Shubman Gill, already the Test captain, had been entrusted with the ODI vice-captaincy too. Despite the fact that matches - Tests, ODIs, T20Is -- were coming thick and fast, that Gill seemed to have plenty on his plate. Undoubtedly with inputs from head coach Gautam Gambhir, Ajit Agarkar's selection panel decided that even though the next 50-over World Cup was two years away and even though Gill appeared overburdened on all fronts, the time was ripe for him to be handed over the ODI leadership role too.

Gill hasn't had a great run in white-ball internationals in the last six and a half weeks. He had a highest of 47 and just one other effort of more than 20 in seven T20I knocks in the Asia Cup in the UAE last month. Over the last week, in the three ODIs in Australia, he has managed 10, 9 and 24. That proves little, one might say, given that in his first series as Test captain, he smashed four centuries in England on his way to 754 runs, and that he made a half-century and a hundred in the two home Tests against West Indies earlier this month. But that is a discussion for another day.

Back to Rohit. His last competitive outing was on June 1, during Mumbai Indians' loss to Punjab Kings in Qualifier 2 of IPL 2025. He had gone four-and-a-half months without a game, his longest gap away from the sport in a while when he has been fit and available. Rohit spent the first half of that hiatus partaking of top-class action in the English summer, including Wimbledon and the Oval classic between Gill's boys and Ollie Pope's England in the series-deciding Test. When he returned to India, his competitive fire stoked, he got down to work with old friend Abhishek Nayar, briefly India's batting coach who fell out of favour after the 1-3 hammering in the five-Test series Australia the previous winter.

Nayar and Rohit go back a long way, their relationship based on trust and honesty. Nayar was by Rohit's side when he channelled the heartbreak of being left out of the 2011 World Cup side positively and came surging back to establish himself as one of the greatest white-ball batters of all time.

Life came full circle a couple of months ago when the two Mumbaikars reunited to turn the clock back and facilitate Rohit becoming the best version of himself.

Fourteen years previously, Rohit was a motivated 24-year-old; would a wizened, gnarled 38-year-old be able to summon the same intensity of then? How badly did he want it, as they say?

Quite badly, it is evident. The emphasis wasn't just on getting his batting in order, it was also to become fitter, leaner, swifter, more athletic-*looking*, which seems to impress people more than being just cricket-fit. Rohit shed kilos (10,000 grams, Nayar helpfully informed us) and honed his batting. He didn't leave any stone unturned as he emplaned for Perth where, would you believe it, he had never previously played an ODI.

Quick exit

Rohit's first game back as one of the boys was terminated at eight by Josh Hazlewood, the metronomic pacer who produced an excellent delivery that moved away a smidgeon, if that, squared up the right-hander and elicited an edge to second slip. The Optus can do it, with its extra bounce; the ball hit Rohit high up on the bat, nearer the splice. A spiteful ball that would have produced a wicket eight times out of ten.

A better batting surface greeted the teams in Adelaide, but Hazlewood was once again at it. At one point, he bowled 17 dot balls to Rohit, beating him on the outside edge, on the inside-edge, rapping him on his pads, his thigh, his breadbasket. Rohit didn't flinch, he didn't lapse into bravado. He bided his time, trusted his game plan and when Hazlewood went off the attack, switched gears to make a superb 73. Not enough for victory, but enough to suggest that the Hitman was nearly there.

Saturday and Sydney confirmed Australia's worst fears and sent millions of Indian cricket fans into paroxysms of delight. Rohit purred along beautifully while Kohli, coming off successive ODI ducks for the first time in his celebrated career, rode early luck before slipping into an active supporting role.

There were trademark drives over the top on the off-side, uncompromising sweeps and a dismissive pull off the front foot against Hazlewood that flew over wide mid-on, the ultimate statement in an innings full of statements even if that wasn't Rohit's intention.

Those who have watched him on television over the last week will agree that Rohit hasn't been as ready with a smile as in the past, that there is something slightly different about him. He is not aloof, no way, because that's not how he is wired. Gill sought out his counsel off the field and on it, and Rohit was always by his side with a suggestion, a slice of pithy advice (such as going to slip against Mitch Owen off a reluctant Harshit Rana and pouching a catch there not long after) and a shoulder around the arm when needed. But he is a lot more serious, a side of Rohit we haven't witnessed in a long, long time, maybe because he feels the need to prove a point or three - to himself, more than to anyone else.

Saturday was Rohit's 50th international hundred. Only two other Indians, Sachin Tendulkar and Kohli, figure in the last of 10 batters worldwide who have reached that milestone. It's a staggering accomplishment, a tribute to Rohit's legacy which, one suspects, will be eulogised and extolled commensurately once he hangs up his boots, whenever that is. He must have derived a certain satisfaction from the fact that when he brought up three-figures, his batting partner was Kohli, the darling of the masses, one half of what the creatively inclined have labelled Ro-Ko.

Rohit and Kohli have seen numerous ups and downs, been teammates and rivals (in the IPL), gone through good times and not-so-good ones, and contributed immensely when the other has been the skipper. Rohit, as everyone will readily recall, smashed five centuries in the 2019 World Cup when Kohli was in charge in England which, he said, meant little because India crashed out in the semis. Kohli returned the compliment with three tons in the 2023 edition, was the Player of the Final at the T20 World Cup last year and marshalled successful run-chases against Pakistan and Australia (semifinal) of the Champions Trophy this year with scores of 100 not out and 84 respectively. To see the two 'old dogs', as Ravi Shastri called them in a post-match chat, join hands one last time in Australia to overwhelm the old foe was exhilarating. It was as if they had made time stand still.

The fans, nearly 35,000 of them at the ground bathed in blue - Kerry O'Keefe, the former Aussie leg-spinner, said he had never seen such one-sided support for the visiting team in his 60-year involvement with the game - couldn't have enough of it. Rohit and Kohli sparked an electric atmosphere with their 19th hundred-plus stand in ODIs; it was their first such alliance since January 2020.

Rohit's batting approach, conservative to start with, has been attributed to his changed status within the team. Conveniently forgotten was the challenge the pitches threw up. Next month in India? The PowerPlay destroyer will be back, make no mistake.

GETTY IMAGES

THE GIST

- Rohit had gone four-and-a-half months without a game, his longest gap away from the sport in a while when he has been fit and available
- The Mumbaikar scored his 50th international hundred in the third ODI against Australia. Only two other Indians figure in the last of 10 batters worldwide who have reached that milestone
- Rohit and Kohli have seen numerous ups and downs, been teammates and rivals (in the IPL), gone through good times and not-so-good ones, and contributed immensely when the other has been the skipper

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Cement
SAVINGS OF ₹30 PER CEMENT BAG
SAVINGS OF UP TO ₹600 ON SAND-LIME BRICKS WORTH ₹10,000
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Govt. identifying land for shifting HC to a new location, says DKS

'Chief Justice has pointed out that there is a severe shortage of space for functioning of the court in its present location'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Sunday disclosed that the State government is considering a request to shift the High Court of Karnataka to a new location and is in the process of identifying a suitable land for the new building within the Central Business District (CBD) area.

Mr. Shivakumar said that the Chief Justice of the High Court had pointed out that there is a severe shortage of space for functioning of the court in its present location and the Bengaluru Advocates' Association (AAB) has already made a request to shift the court to another location within the CBD.

Mr. Shivakumar was responding to a query by mediapersons on whether there is any representation to shift the court from its present location, after participating in 'Walk with Bengaluru', a public outreach programme, at Cubbon Park in the morning. The Deputy Chief Minister said that AAB representatives had met him on Saturday and suggested that the land used for race course by the Bangalore Turf Club Pvt. Ltd. could be considered as one of the options for constructing a new building for the court. The Chief Commissioner of the Greater Bengaluru Authority has referred another land for the High Court building, Mr. Shivakumar pointed out.

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar during the 'Walk with Bengaluru' event at Cubbon Park in Bengaluru on Sunday. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

> AAB representatives have suggested that the land used for race course by the Bangalore Turf Club Pvt. Ltd. can be an option
>
> **D.K. SHIVAKUMAR**
> Deputy Chief Minister

However, he made it clear that the court cannot be shifted outside the city as it has to be within the CBD area and should cater to the needs of all – the litigants, the lawyers, the judges.

The new building has to be close to metro station for the convenience of all, the Deputy Chief Minister said.

AAB's representation

Vivek Subba Reddy, president of AAB, told *The Hindu* that the AAB met the Karnataka Chief Justice a couple of months ago to apprise him of the need for a state-of-the art building for the High Court since there was no scope for expansion or upgrade in the present building as it was located adjacent to the Cubbon Park.

Delhi High Court

The Chief Justice, Mr. Reddy, said was open to the AAB's suggestion, while emphasising the need for a modern infrastructure. The Delhi High Court had sometime ago got a building with modern infrastructure and ample space for parking, said Mr. Reddy.

Mr. Reddy also said that the AAB has suggested to the State government that the race course land or the Bangalore Palace land could be considered, keeping in mind the court's need for at least the next five decades.

Difficulties

Pointing out that, at present, several branches of the High Court were functioning from five to six different government buildings situated far away from the main building, the AAB president said that this has been causing serious difficulties for the court's staff and the lawyers.

CM tells BTC to vacate premises in two years and move to Kunigal Stud Farm

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

While the State government is yet to issue racing licence for the season starting November 1, the Bangalore Turf Club has reiterated its demand to have 6.5 acres in the current location to run its club operations before shifting the racing activities to Kunigal Stud Farm, a demand the State government is yet to commit to.

The Bangalore Turf Club. FILE PHOTO

Discussions

On Sunday, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, accompanied by his legal adviser A.S. Ponnanna, Energy Minister K.J. George and a host of officials paid a surprise visit to the club premises to hold discussions with the office-bearers, many of whom were away in Mysuru to watch the Derby at Mysore Race Course.

BTC chairman L. Shivashankar, who had just reached Mysuru had to rush back to meet the Chief Minister, who came unannounced.

BTC sources said that the meeting remained cordial and Mr. Siddaramaiah urged the club authorities to move to Kunigal Stud Farm at the earliest and also withdraw the petition filed before the Supreme Court.

"Though we have asked for retaining 6.5 acres for the club in the existing location, the government has not committed to the extent of land it could give us. We also sought land with clear titles and that has no legal trouble to which he agreed. He told us to vacate the Bengaluru premises in two years, and move to Kunigal," the sources said.

The 80-and-odd-acre turf club is among the largest open spaces in the city centre, and the more than a century-old BTC has been under pressure from governments over the decades to vacate the land given by the Mysore Maharajas. On many occasions, the club has been allegedly arm-twisted to increase membership, which is hard to get under current circumstances.

The sources said that though it would take about three to four years to build a good race track, the Chief Minister did not agree to it.

"We have agreed to move to the new location in two years from the time of handing over of litigation-free land. We have also agreed to withdraw the petition in the Supreme Court. The extraordinary general body meeting of the club has approved moving racing activities out of the current location," the sources added.

Meanwhile, in a related issue, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar – at an event in Cubbon Park on Sunday morning – told presspersons that the current racecourse was one of the possible locations suggested by the Advocates Association of Bengaluru to shift the Karnataka High Court from Cubbon Park. His remarks came when the issue of moving the High Court from Cubbon Park was raised.

Man from T.N. booked for harassing fashion designer

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A Chennai-based businessman and owner of EVP Film City was booked for assaulting and harassing a city-based fashion designer by forcing her into a relationship.

Based on the complaint, the Vyalikaval police registered an FIR against Santosha Reddy recently, for voluntarily causing hurt, criminal intimidation, and sexual harassment.

In her complaint, the victim said she got introduced to Reddy after she had taken up a design project for his daughter for their relative's wedding. After a couple of chats, the accused allegedly offered to invest in her business, but she declined.

He then started talking to her and asked if she could get an alliance for his daughter. The complainant alleged that he recently visited her house to ask help to pacify his daughter as he had a fight with his daughter who stopped talking to him.

The victim alleged that he then proposed to her.

When she refused, he allegedly assaulted and threatened her.

The police have launched a probe.

BDA to release ₹5 cr. to develop and maintain Cubbon Park

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar announced on Sunday that the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) will release ₹5 crore to develop and maintain Cubbon Park in Central Bengaluru.

Mr. Shivakumar said that while the park appears well maintained, there is room for further development. His remarks came during the 'Walk with Bengaluru', a public outreach programme.

Acknowledging the city's need for more green cover, he provided an update on plans to develop additional parks, similar to Lalbagh and Cubbon Park. "There are seven major forest lands in Bengaluru with the potential to be converted into lung spaces. I will meet with the Forest Department and initiate the process to transform these areas into tree parks," he said.

A view of the Cubbon Park in Bengaluru. FILE PHOTO

The Deputy Chief Minister's announcement followed a request by a citizen, Keshavamurthy, to develop more tree parks across the city during the programme.

Deputy Chief Minister's announcement followed a request by a citizen to develop more tree parks across the city

The meeting at the Cubbon Park marked the final leg of Mr. Shivakumar's walking spree, aimed at promoting development projects and gathering public feedback.

Despite expectations of a large turnout, the walk at the Cubbon Park saw a relatively low response compared to other locations. Only 35 requests from the citizens were submitted, making it the lowest after Koramangala, which recorded 42 requests.

Nevertheless, he affirmed that 'Walk with Bengaluru' would continue citywide, given the overwhelming support it has received.

S. Umesh of the Cubbon Park Walkers' Association suggested removing all leased buildings in the park and restricting vehicle movements, or charging vehicles to generate revenue for park maintenance. Arun Pai of BangaloreWALKS, which offers guided walks, urged Mr. Shivakumar to allow family picnics inside the park. Padma Shri awardee K.S. Rajanna, who works for the welfare of persons with disabilities, proposed naming the Pottery Town Metro Station after the late Kannada actor Puneeth Rajkumar, citing the film 'Bhaktha Kumbara' by Dr. Rajkumar, Puneeth's father, and explaining why the tribute would be appropriate.

Activist Priya Chetty-Rajagopal requested that the Cubbon Park be declared a biodiversity park.

A Koramangala resident urged Mr. Shivakumar to monitor paying guest accommodations that flout building rules.

Effort to rejuvenate lakes gets national recognition for this engineer

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bengaluru may be known as the Garden City, but rapid urban development over the years has put its greenery and waterbodies under pressure. A Bengaluru-based engineer, Kapil Sharma, has been working to reverse that trend, and on Sunday, his efforts received national recognition.

In his weekly Mann Ki Baat address, Prime Minister Narendra Modi highlighted Mr. Sharma's efforts for rejuvenating wells and lakes in and around Bengaluru, and to mobilise both citizens and corporates to support his initiatives.

Mr. Sharma, who moved to Bengaluru from Raipur in 2001 to pursue engineering, says he fell in love with the city's tree-lined streets. "Between 2005 and 2006, I started noticing many trees being cut down for development projects. It bothered me deeply, and I felt I needed to contribute as a concerned citizen," he recalled. Determined to act, he began visiting government offices to understand his role and capacity as a citizen. In 2007, he started planting saplings on weekends. Over time, more people joined him, and this collective effort became the foundation for SayTrees, a non-profit aimed at increasing India's green and blue cover.

Kapil Sharma, who moved to Bengaluru from Raipur in 2001 to pursue engineering, says he fell in love with the city's tree-lined streets. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

PM highlighted Kapil Sharma's efforts for rejuvenating wells and lakes in his weekly Mann Ki Baat address

Mr. Sharma credits his 'three P's formula'—project, people, and paisa (money) for the organisation's success. "Finding the right project, the right people, and the right corporate partners for funding support is crucial. I involve communities who are equally passionate about these initiatives to ensure the project's success and sustainability," he said.

Over the years, the SayTrees has planted more than 10 million trees across urban and rural areas, including fruit trees, in partnership with, over 20,000 farmers. These trees not only benefit the environment, but also provide additional income to local communities, he said.

Water conservation

Water conservation soon became a priority after he observed Bengaluru struggling during dry seasons. Starting with one lake, the SayTrees has now rejuvenated 50 lakes nationwide, adding water-holding capacity of around five billion litres.

According to Mr. Sharma, rejuvenating polluted lakes helps recharge groundwater and build resilience against urban flooding during the monsoon. "A large lake can store up to 200 million litres of water every monsoon. Imagine gallons of rainwater flowing down the drain and flooding the city. Lakes have the capacity to capture that rainwater, which can then support the city during the summer," he explained.

The SayTrees has also pioneered the creation of Miyawaki forests- a dense, multi-layered forest created using a Japanese method to grow self-sustaining mini-forests in a short time, often in urban areas, in India, establishing more than 150 small urban forests that support biodiversity and green cover.

While Mr. Sharma now operates from the U.S., he continues to promote the initiative globally, raising awareness and support, while co-founder Devkant manages on-ground activities in India.

Labourers arrested on charge of murdering their female friend

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Tilak Nagar police on Sunday arrested two labourers for allegedly murdering a 35-year-old woman.

The accused have been identified as Subramani, 32, and Senthil, 28. They are residents of KHB Colony in Tilak Nagar, and were working as daily wage labourers.

A probe revealed that the duo was in a relationship with the victim Salma. The victim got in touch with them after her husband died a year ago.

The trio used to meet up frequently to drink alcohol. The police said the duo started suspecting Salma of cheating on them. On Saturday, while drinking together, the duo started arguing with Salma, accusing her of having a relationship with another man. In a fit of rage, Subramani allegedly attacked Salma with a blunt weapon. She collapsed and died on the spot.

Realising that she was dead, the duo disposed of the body by wrapping it in a cloth and dumped it inside the autorickshaw.

On Saturday evening, passers-by noticed the body and alerted Salma's mother, Parvin Taj, who then alerted the police.

The police booked the duo.

Hanle protects its dark skies and builds a future on stargazing

With the motto 'come for the mountains, stay for the stars,' the Hanle Dark Sky Reserve is showing how the Himalayan skies are being preserved today and will be carried forward for future generations, with thousands of new visitors also lending a helping hand to the local economy

Shreejaya Karantha

Stargazers gathered at the Himalayan Chandra Telescope for the Hanle Star Party. AJAY & NEELAM TALWAR/SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Astronomy is the oldest of the sciences. The sky is a free resource, and those who live away from city lights are fortunate to enjoy it for their passion, imagination, and even livelihoods. That's the story of Hanle, a small Himalayan village that hosts one of the darkest skies in the world. Its Bortle-1 skies – the highest clarity rating on a nine-point scale – seem to say astronomy is for everyone.

Located in Ladakh, Hanle is now protected as India's first dark sky reserve. It's managed as part of a memorandum of understanding between the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) in Bengaluru, the Union Territory of Ladakh, and the Ladakh Hill Development Council in Leh. Once a region of nomadic people, Hanle is now emerging as a stargazing destination.

A dark sky reserve is a designated area with an exceptionally clear sky, and maintained that way by minimising light pollution. The Hanle Dark Sky Reserve, a unique government-funded and science-driven sustainable development initiative, is located within the Changthang Wildlife Sanctuary, surrounding the Indian Astronomical Observatory, a research facility operated by IIA.

The Observatory hosts two optical telescopes, the Himalayan Chandra Telescope and the GROWTH India Telescope (with IIT Bombay), and two Cherenkov telescopes – the High Altitude Gamma-Ray Telescope Array (with the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research) and the Major Atmospheric Cherenkov Experiment (with the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre).

"Countless clear sky nights, fewer atmospheric particles that absorb the celestial objects' light, and low light pollution make Hanle an ideal location for astronomical observations," Dorje Angchuk, the engineer-in-charge of the Observatory, said.

To minimise light pollution at the reserve, the IIA has distributed lamp shades, blackout curtains, and bulbs of warm tones to all homes and infrastructure in the village, Mr. Angchuk said. In support of astrotourism, IIA scientists have trained 25 local youth, 18 of whom are women, as "Astronomy Ambassadors." These ambassadors are equipped with telescopes and taught basic astronomy concepts. The night-sky tours they lead for visitors help them with a part-time income.

The star party

Since 2023, Hanle Dark Sky Reserve has been hosting an annual "star party" at this location. The third edition took place from September 18 to September 23 this year. At these parties, astronomy enthusiasts, astrophotographers, and stargazers together observe and celebrate the night sky. Their gathering creates space for astronomy education, hands-on learning, and collaboration.

Unlike conventional parties, a star party is a gathering held under dark skies, devoid of white light (or loud sounds for that matter), with the participants engaged in quiet observations.

Some 47 participants, including beginner as well as professional stargazers (and this author), gathered at this year's party. The early evenings featured tutorials and lectures on the best ways to make use of the clear, dark skies, while the nights were spent viewing and capturing images of the heavens. The team was supported by volunteers from the Bangalore Astronomical Society and repeat participants.

"The skies in Hanle are so pristine that you can observe many elusive and exclusive phenomena not seen anywhere else," Ajay Talwar, an amateur astronomer and telescope maker who runs a company called Aperture Telescope in Gurugram, said.

These phenomena include zodiacal light, a faint glow that appears during the twilight hours along the Sun's path in the sky, caused by sunlight scattering off dust particles in the inner Solar System, and which he said "can only be viewed from Hanle."

Mr. Talwar has been an astrophotographer since 1987. During the orientation programme for the star party, he spoke to the participants about other similar astronomical phenomena and the best times for viewing them. For example, the gegenschein, he said, is a luminous patch in the sky found opposite the sun's position, a.k.a. the antisolar point. The Belt of Venus is likewise a pink band of light visible in the evening sky, above a dark blue band, in the direction opposite to that of the setting sun. The dark blue band is the earth's shadow, and the pink band is backscattered sunlight.

"Clear skies and dry weather and the time I get to spend with the sky brings me back here every year," Neelam Talwar, an Air India crew member and a member of the Amateur Astronomers Association of New Delhi, said at the event.

Ms. Talwar expressed a particular fondness for capturing images of the Belt of Venus and the zodiacal light. She also shared accounts of last year's events, where participants learned to capture people in the dark against a starry background by illuminating their subjects from different angles.

Hanle has low oxygen, low humidity, and high ultraviolet radiation – all factors considered very suitable for astronomy, according to Mr. Talwar. However, he added, they are very bad for the human body.

"So, it is very important to come here with a lot of planning and rest."

Indeed, the IIA advised the star party's attendees to arrive in Leh two days before the journey to Hanle so we could acclimatise ourselves to the low oxygen levels and dry air. A medical professional set out the potential health problems at high altitudes, and each had to complete a medical check-up before commencing the journey. At Hanle itself, which is located 4,250 m above sea level, there were nightly medical checks and volunteers to help.

Participants registered via an application form that the IIA opens for the star party around August. They were selected based on their experience, passion for astronomy, and their plans for utilising Hanle's pristine skies.

Life around stars

Rangdol Dorje, an Astronomy Ambassador since 2022, said the local economy is thriving thanks to an influx of tourists to Hanle to look at the stars. According to Mr. Angchuk, the reserve had around 10,000 visitors in 2024.

> Countless clear nights, fewer atmospheric particles, and low light pollution make Hanle an ideal location for astronomical observations
>
> **DORJE ANGCHUK**
> ENGINEER-IN-CHARGE OF THE OBSERVATORY

Mr. Dorje also said visitors often ask if they can see the stars at night as they enter the village and that many are particularly interested in viewing planets and the moon through telescopes. Mr. Dorje studied computer science but said he found it easy to learn astronomical concepts, adding that "astronomy is for everyone."

"Truly speaking, I'm really fortunate to be born in ... Hanle," Tsering Skitzom, a newly appointed Astronomy Ambassador with a background in accounting, said.

She added that sharing their natural surroundings and astronomy experiences with others outside Hanle is important.

"I think practical is more important than theoretical. We are doing practical learning through telescopes, with the help of the senior ambassadors," Ms. Skitzom added.

There are fewer tourists in the winter because of the cold; at this time the Astronomy Ambassadors tutor the local schoolgoing children.

"I teach alternative learning courses on astronomy and culture as a pedagogical approach," Padma Ishey, an Astronomy Ambassador, said. (The alternative approach refers to teaching topics that aren't covered in schools). He added that young students will do better research if they learn about their own culture well.

Hanle village and the Indus Rriver in Changthang. ASHISH KOTHARI/KSL

Mr. Ishey and Anmol Tikoo, an educator and filmmaker, have been working on preserving local traditional knowledge of the night sky by collecting stories, proverbs, and folk songs from elders in Hanle and the surrounding area. Many participants said their presentation at the star party was eye-opening.

Come for the mountains

Namratha Pathak, a scientist in the Department of Science and Technology of the Government of India, stressed the importance of the connection between science, nature, habitat, and Indigenous knowledge and urged their joint conservation. She also called her own star party experience "spectacular" and "breathtaking," and said she would treasure seeing the Milky Way.

Khursheed Alam, a senior lecturer from Jammu and Kashmir, said he plans to share what he learnt with his students. "I learnt about different types of telescopes, especially the automated ones. One of the most interesting things I learnt was how to take astrophotographs using my phone."

Rashmi Sheoran, an astronomy educator from Haryana who was attending the star party for the first time, said she used to believe that the images of the universe available on the internet were qualitatively superior to those seen through a telescope. Her time at the party changed her mind: "After seeing the planets with my own eyes, I found the view to be as good as or even better than pictures I had seen before," she remarked.

Muneer Wani, a teacher and divisional nodal officer for STEM and Akaash labs in Jammu & Kashmir, said he'd encourage people interested in space science and astronomy to explore careers beyond the traditional engineering and medicine. At the party, Mr. Wani said he was able to improve his own astrophotography skills with help from Mr. Talwar, and succeeded in capturing high-quality images of the Milky Way and the Andromeda galaxy. On the party's last night, the participants welcomed tourists and locals to explore the sky with telescopes. This open event involved nearly 300 people, including soldiers from the Indian Army and officers stationed nearby.

"To boost astro-tourism, we are building a mini-planetarium at [the reserve]. We also plan to build a transparent dome called the 'Astroglobe' to benefit tourists and stargazers during the harsh winter season," Mr. Angchuk said.

With the motto "come for the mountains, stay for the stars," the Hanle Dark Sky Reserve is showing how the Himalayan skies are being preserved today and will be carried forward for future generations, while also lending a helping hand to the local economy.

(Shreejaya Karantha is a freelance science writer. shreejayakaranth@gmail.com)

Hummingbirds are known for their ability to hover by flapping their wings 15 to 80 times per second, depending on the bird's size. AFP

New model finds hovering doesn't need a complex brain

Vasudevan Mukunth

For decades, scientists and engineers have puzzled over how insects and hummingbirds can hover, i.e., stay nearly motionless in the air, despite the limits of ordinary aerodynamics. Conventional theory long held that such flight should be unstable: the lifting forces needed to balance the being's weight should be too great to sustain without active control.

Many studies have tried to model hovering mathematically, treating it as a complex system with flapping wings, nonlinear motions, and multiple interacting forces. Other researchers ran detailed simulations of fluid motion. They proved accurate – but they operated far too slowly to explain how real creatures stabilise themselves in milliseconds.

Meanwhile, experiments also showed that insects depend heavily on sensory feedback such as visual cues, airflow sensors, and balance organs to correct their motion, which added to the puzzle because insects have small brains with very limited computing power.

These conflicting lines of evidence have together left hovering an unsolved puzzle. But if a study published recently in *Physical Review E* is to be believed, science may have finally cracked the puzzle. The authors of this study, from the University of Cincinnati in the US, have revealed that there's a way hovering can be governed by a simple, real-time feedback rule that needs no heavy computation at all.

They have proposed that hovering

ES systems reproduced hovering in hawkmoths, craneflies, bumblebees, hoverflies, and hummingbirds. Each model could maintain altitude without detailed aerodynamic models

operates as an extremum-seeking (ES) feedback system. Imagine you're trying to keep a drone perfectly hovering at one height but you don't know the exact rules that tell you how to do it. You can't write equations or predict the forces. Instead, you use trial and error with feedback: you make small adjustments, watch what happens, and keep changing direction until the drone stays steady.

This is what an ES system does. It's a feedback loop that helps a system find its sweet spot, a.k.a. the extremum, which could be a minimum or maximum of something you're trying to adjust.

It starts by making small yet regular changes to some control input, e.g., an insect slightly changing the strength or angle of its wing flaps. The insect's body or sensors detect whether it went up, down or stayed level. If the change improves its stability, it keeps moving that way; if it doesn't, it reverses course. Through such small corrections, the insect eventually learns the right flapping pattern to stay balanced.

Their simulations showed that the ES-based control system reproduced stable hovering in hawkmoths, craneflies, bumblebees, dragonflies, hoverflies, and hummingbirds. Each model could maintain constant altitude without requiring detailed aerodynamic models. The same feedback rule also worked despite vast differences in size and wingbeat frequency as well. And the predicted flapping amplitudes closely matched values measured in natural experiments.

By showing that hovering can emerge from a simple law, the study suggested that stability in hovering flight needn't demand complex neural abilities. For biologists, per the study, the findings can help clarify how small flyers remain steady with minimal processing power; in engineering, it could open a path towards bio-inspired drones that hover stably without complex control algorithms or heavy sensors.

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DKS hints at 'expanding' IT firms to ease load on ORR

Priyank Kharge has been directed to prepare a detailed plan addressing ORR-related issues and to discuss it with CEOs ahead of the Bengaluru Tech Summit, says Deputy Chief Minister

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Sunday revealed that the government is considering 'expanding' IT companies across the city to ease burden on the Outer Ring Road (ORR).

Speaking after the 'Walk with Bengaluru' programme, Mr. Shivakumar said the move could reduce travel time for employees, noting that over 10 lakh tech professionals currently work for companies located along the ORR. He added that he has directed IT/BT Minister Priyank Kharge to prepare a detailed plan addressing ORR-related issues and to discuss it with the CEOs of companies along the stretch ahead of the Bengaluru Tech Summit.

Mr. Shivakumar said he met entrepreneurs and industry leaders, including Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw and Mohandas Pai, on Saturday to discuss infrastructure challenges and gather their suggestions. "Entrepreneurs are our brothers and sisters. I told them that Bengaluru is their city too, and its dignity must not be undermined," he said.

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar with Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, Mohandas Pai, Greater Bengaluru Authority Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao, and others during a meeting in Bengaluru on Saturday.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"I told them that if they criticise, it will become international news about our city. Our conversations yielded excellent suggestions regarding Bengaluru's development," he added, noting that the entrepreneurs have also been included in the main advisory committee. Responding to a query about the new DPR for the Red Line Metro for which the approval is still pending, Mr. Shivakumar said metro routes must be extended for public convenience, alongside double-decker bus services.

"The Centre is funding approximately 12 to 13% of the project costs, with the State covering the remaining costs. We will get our work done," he said. When asked about the meeting with MP for Bengaluru South Tejasvi Surya, Mr. Shivakumar said, "He requested a time, and I have scheduled it for Tuesday. If he provides good suggestions, we will incorporate them. The Deputy Chief Minister added that the tunnel road is essential for Bengaluru.

He added that as an MP, Mr. Surya should help secure Central funds for the State.

Shivakumar lashes out at HDK over khata conversion row

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Sunday lashed out at Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel H.D. Kumaraswamy for criticising the conversion of B-Khata properties into A-Khata.

He called Mr. Kumaraswamy's criticism as 'baseless and empty rhetoric'.

On Saturday, Mr. Kumaraswamy described the conversion scheme as 'daylight robbery' and an attempt to fill the government's empty treasury. He further alleged that the scheme was 'bogus'.

Mr. Shivakumar said that Mr. Kumaraswamy's criticism of the conversion scheme was entirely unfounded, calling him a 'khali trunk' (empty trunk). "Mr. Kumaraswamy is not educated. He lacks basic common sense. He doesn't even understand what A-Khata and B-Khata are. I didn't implement B-Khata. The BJP did," Mr. Shivakumar said.

He added that he had challenged Mr. Kumaraswamy to a debate on the subject, but he never showed up.

"He is dreaming of something, but I have dreamt bigger. He dreamed and got 18 seats, while I got 136. Next, he might come down to eight, and I will reach 150," Mr. Shivakumar said.

Tejasvi Surya seeks time to give suggestions for tackling Bengaluru traffic

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A day after Deputy Chief minister D.K. Shivakumar challenged MP for Bengaluru South Tejasvi Surya to share his action plan against the proposed tunnel road project to ease Bengaluru's traffic congestion, Mr. Surya on Sunday said that he has sought time to present his suggestions on tackling vehicular traffic.

Speaking to reporters here on Sunday, Mr. Surya said, "I have long advocated sustainable solutions to Bengaluru's problems. As a resident of this city, it is my responsibility to support good ideas as much as it is my duty to oppose band-aid fixes that hardly address the core problem."

"He (Mr. Shivakumar) is a senior politician and administrator, who intends to do his best for the city. I hope this discussion will help us find sustainable solutions and work together to make the city more liveable while addressing its major challenges," he said.

"If the tunnel road project is truly beneficial, then why are experts raising objections? I have requested some time from Mr. Shivakumar to present my action plan," he said.

Four held for smuggling sandalwood logs

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Siddapura police busted an inter-State sandalwood smuggling racket and arrested four men in this connection.

Based on a tip off, a team of police personnel intercepted a goods vehicle, which was escorted by an SUV, at Someshwara Nagar. The police seized 250 sandalwood pieces, weighing 750 kg, and the value of the seized items was estimated to be around ₹1.12 crore. The police arrested Sheikh Abdul Khadar and Sheikh Sharukh who were escorting the goods vehicle driven by Parameshwar and Ram Bhoopal.

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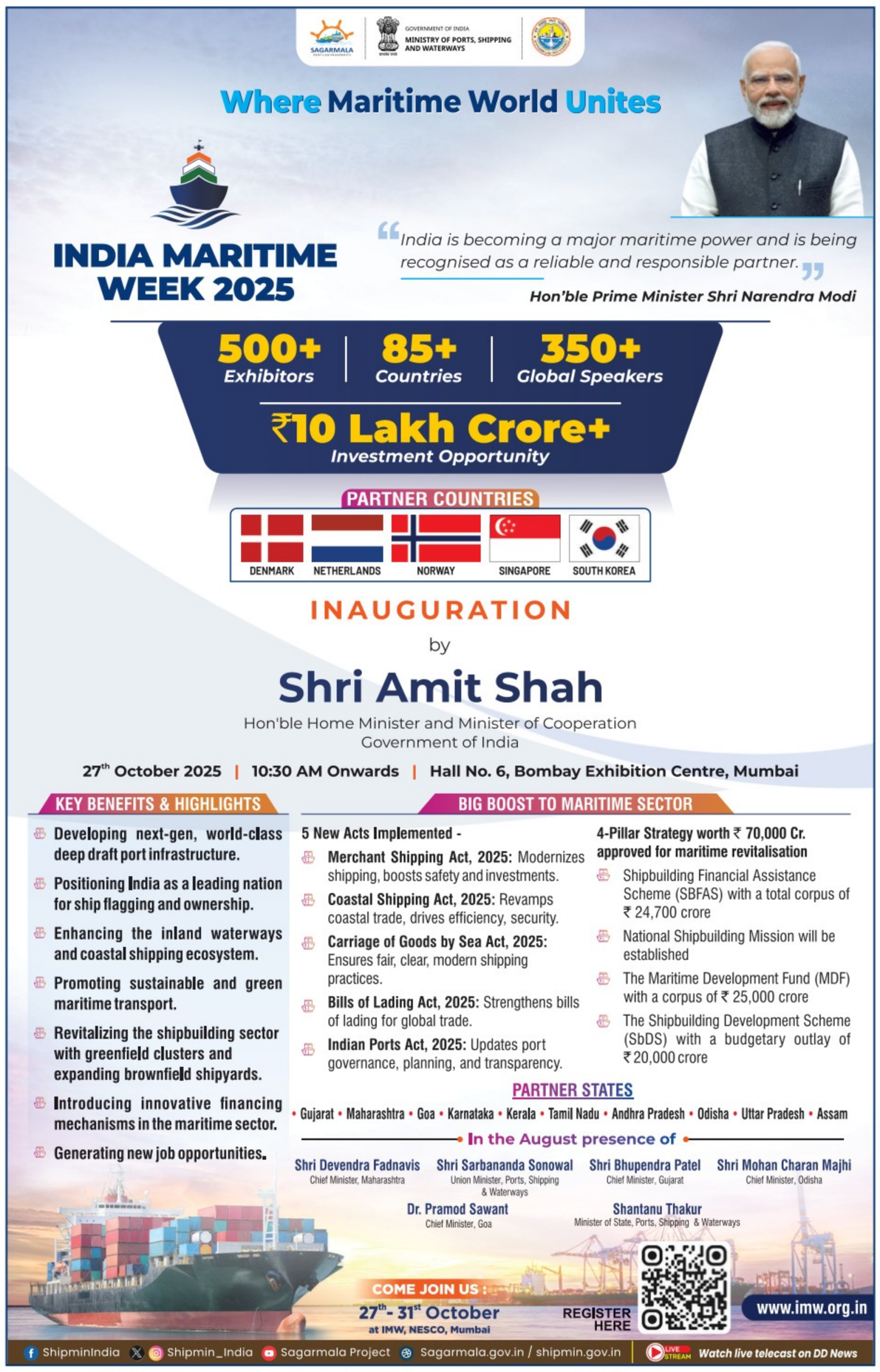
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KEY BENEFITS & HIGHLIGHTS
Developing next-gen, world-class deep draft port infrastructure.
Positioning India as a leading nation for ship flagging and ownership.
Enhancing the inland waterways and coastal shipping ecosystem.
Promoting sustainable and green maritime transport.
Revitalizing the shipbuilding sector with greenfield clusters and expanding brownfield shipyards.
Introducing innovative financing mechanisms in the maritime sector.
Generating new job opportunities.
BIG BOOST TO MARITIME SECTOR
5 New Acts Implemented -
Merchant Shipping Act, 2025: Modernizes shipping, boosts safety and investments.
Coastal Shipping Act, 2025: Revamps coastal trade, drives efficiency, security.
Carriage of Goods by Sea Act, 2025: Ensures fair, clear, modern shipping practices.
Bills of Lading Act, 2025: Strengthens bills of lading for global trade.
Indian Ports Act, 2025: Updates port governance, planning, and transparency.
4-Pillar Strategy worth ₹ 70,000 Cr. approved for maritime revitalisation
Shipbuilding Financial Assistance Scheme (SBFAS) with a total corpus of ₹ 24,700 crore
National Shipbuilding Mission will be established
The Maritime Development Fund (MDF) with a corpus of ₹ 25,000 crore
The Shipbuilding Development Scheme (SbDS) with a budgetary outlay of ₹ 20,000 crore
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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Number of teachers employed in schools with zero enrolment

20,817 Close to 8,000 schools across India had zero enrolments during the 2024-25 session, with West Bengal accounting for most such schools, followed by Telangana. A total of 20,817 teachers were employed in these schools. PTI

Number of UN staff arrested by Yemen rebels on Sunday

3 Yemen's Houthis arrested three local UN staff, including two women, accusing them of spying for Israel. They are the latest in a wave of arrests targeting UN and other NGO workers, with seven other local UN staffers arrested earlier this week on accusations of colluding with Israel. AFP

Number of fishermen rescued by the Indian Coast Guard

31 The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) said it rescued 31 fishermen stranded aboard a fishing boat, IFB Sant Anton-I, which had been adrift in the Arabian Sea for 11 days due to a steering gear failure. The ICG deployed ICGS Kasturba Gandhi and a Dornier aircraft to locate the distressed boat. PTI

Parliamentarians who voted to lift Djibouti's presidential age limit

65 Djibouti's parliament voted unanimously to lift the presidential age limit, opening the way for leader Guelleh to run for a sixth term. Guelleh has held power since 1999 in the Horn of Africa nation, a major port that hosts military bases for the U.S, France, and China. AFP

Offices digitised by the PWD department in Himachal Pradesh

100 Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu commended the Public Works Department (PWD) for bringing 100 offices on the e-Office platform, aligning with the government's digital governance drive. PTI

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Why has IUCN red-flagged the Western Ghats?

What has the International Union for Conservation of Nature's World Heritage Outlook 4 report said? What are the four main threats to the loss of habitats and species in South Asia? Are the Western Ghats highly endangered? What are the factors threatening the Sundarbans mangroves?

EXPLAINER

Divya Gandhi

The story so far:

The expansive Western Ghats and two national parks in India – Assam's Manas national park and West Bengal's Sundarbans national park – have been categorised as being of "significant concern" in the International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) list of natural World Heritage sites across Asia.

Why did the IUCN state?

The IUCN's World Heritage Outlook 4 report released earlier this month attributes four threats to the loss of habitats and species in South Asia: climate change, tourism activities, invasive alien species, and roads. The report categorises the natural sites as "good", "good with some concerns", "significant concern", and "critical". The report uses four cycles of conservation assessments undertaken since 2014.

"Each of these categories not only shows the potential for a site to preserve its values and underlying attributes but also indicates the urgency of measures that need to be taken to improve the conservation outlook and ensure the long-term conservation of all sites," says the report. The IUCN assessment of over 200 natural and mixed World Heritage sites "offers the most in-depth analyses of threats facing natural World Heritage around the world and their protection and management status," says Grethel Aguilar, IUCN director general, in the introduction to the report.

The report points out that the percentage of sites with "a positive conservation outlook has, for the first time, decreased significantly."

Do we have 'good' protected areas?

Protected areas in South Asia are being usurped rapidly, obliterating natural habitats. Of the 228 sites assessed since 2014, some 63% of sites had a positive outlook in 2014, 2017 and 2020, however, 'the IUCN World Heritage Outlook 4 shows that in 2025 only 57% of these sites have a positive conservation outlook."

Flourishing fauna: A flock of hornbills in the Western Ghats. M. SATHYAMOORTHY

The threats are also shapeshifting, "it is ...notable that roads and railroads are now among the top five greatest threats to natural World Heritage in Asia, while in 2020 this was not the case." The other threats include: forest fires, hunting, roadkill, waste disposal, encroachment, illegal logging etc.

Of the 32 Asian sites categorised as "good with some concerns," four happen to be in India – The Great Himalayan National Park Conservation Area, Kaziranga National Park, Keoladeo National Park, and Nanda Devi and Valley of Flowers National Parks. Khangchendzonga National Park in Sikkim has been rated "good" in its conservation outlook, valuing "attributes [that] are currently in good condition and likely to be maintained for the foreseeable future, provided that current conservation measures are maintained."

The Western Ghats, a mosaic of forests and grasslands, are older than the Himalayas and have an exceptionally high level of biological diversity and endemism, habitat to some 325 globally threatened (listed in IUCN's Red List) flora, fauna, bird, amphibian, reptile and fish species, according to UNESCO. This includes the Nilgiri tahr, a stocky, agile goat found nowhere else in the world.

What makes the Ghats vulnerable?

The Western Ghats are highly endangered not least by hundreds of hydropower projects such as the proposed ₹5,843 crore Sillahalla Pumped Storage Hydroelectric project in the Nilgiris, which involves constructing dams across River Sillahalla and River Kundah, with an aim to generate 1,000 MW of power for Tamil Nadu's plains.

Moreover, tourism is creating problems of garbage, often consumed by wild animals such as elephants and exacerbating conflict. Plantations are replacing natural ecosystems. And climate change has forced fauna to adapt by redistributing themselves from fast-warming lower altitudes to higher reaches, such as in the case of the Nilgiri flycatcher and the black and orange flycatcher. Exotic species are colonising natural forests, such as eucalyptus and acacia (both originally from Australia), which were introduced here during the colonial era. As for the Sundarbans mangroves where tigers swim, salinity, heavy metal contamination, and unsustainable resource extraction threatens the ecosystem. Sea level rise and frequent storm surges reduce mangrove biodiversity, says the report.

Is there hope yet?

Outside India, seven sites in China have been proclaimed "best protected and managed protected areas," including the Badain Jaran Desert-Towers of Sand and Lake, Chengjiang Fossil Site, and Mount Huangshan.

The Natural World Heritage sites make up less than 1% of the Earth's surface, but nurture more than 20% of mapped global species richness. "This includes over 75,000 species of plants, and over 30,000 species of mammals, birds, fishes, reptiles and amphibians," says the report.

This report is timely. "The world has agreed to halt biodiversity loss through the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and the UNESCO World Heritage Convention is uniquely placed to meet these challenges by bridging the gap between nature and culture, and protecting places with extraordinary biodiversity, functional habitats and high ecosystem integrity," says the report. "This report is more than a health check. It is a guide for action," says Ms. Aguilar.

THE GIST

- The IUCN's World Heritage Outlook 4 report released earlier this month attributes four threats to the loss of habitats and species in South Asia: climate change, tourism activities, invasive alien species, and roads.
- The Western Ghats are highly endangered not least by hundreds of hydropower projects.
- The Natural World Heritage sites make up less than 1% of the Earth's surface, but nurture more than 20% of mapped global species richness.

What is the problem faced by paddy farmers of Tamil Nadu?

Why are there issues with procuring and storing paddy from the Cauvery delta?

T. Ramakrishnan

The story so far:

Sensing the growing discomfort among farmers of the Cauvery delta in Tamil Nadu about reports of damage to paddy at many places, the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) government, on October 19, requested the Union government to relax the permissible moisture content for paddy procurement from 17% to 22%. Subsequently, the Union Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution has formed three teams to assess the situation.

What led to the present problem?

The problem, per se, is not new to the Cauvery delta, regarded as the rice bowl of south India. Some of the causes include increasing dependence of farmers on the Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation (TNCSC) for selling their produce, reluctance of private traders to buy paddy harvested during the *Kuruvai* season in view of higher moisture content, inadequate number of Direct Purchase Centres (DPCs), and a lack of storage infrastructure. This year's bumper harvest has worsened the situation. Against the normal coverage of around four lakh acres, more than six lakh acres were brought under paddy cultivation. With Cauvery water being available in abundance, sections of farmers, who had burnt their fingers by going for cotton that got damaged during rains, began raising the paddy late. Normally, the crop gets harvested by the end of September. But this year, the operation is still on. Rains have aggravated the problem, making higher moisture content inevitable.

What has the Union govt. done?

Under the decentralised procurement scheme of the Union Ministry, State governments procure paddy and wheat on behalf of the Centre, in addition to storing and distributing the grain in line with the Centre's policies. The Union government meets the cost of procurement, apart from monitoring the quality of foodgrain procured. Farmers are paid the Minimum Support Price (MSP) fixed by the Centre. Besides, some States including Tamil Nadu pay incentive to farmers. Since the procurement is done as per the norms of the Centre, State governments have to comply with those specifications. Generally, the allowed moisture content is up to 17%, which is measured through moisture metres, available at DPCs, railheads, godowns, and modern rice mills. The Centre can relax the norms, if any State asks for it, citing factors beyond their control. In the past, the Centre has waived stipulations for Andhra Pradesh and Punjab.

Going by the Central Foodgrains portal, nearly 10.4 lakh tonnes were procured from all over Tamil Nadu up to October 24 through 1,855 DPCs. Over 1.2 lakh farmers were paid ₹2,519 crore towards MSP. The estimated quantity of paddy to be procured for the season is nearly 24 lakh tonnes.

What is the political anxiety?

The Cauvery delta accounts for two-thirds of paddy procured by the TNCSC annually. On an average in the last five years, at least 40 lakh tonnes were obtained from farmers all over the State. Last year, it was about 48 lakh tonnes. Politically, the region, which elects 41 of the 234 MLAs, has been a traditional bastion of the DMK. Therefore, the ruling party is anxious to ensure hassle-free paddy procurement.

What is the way forward?

Besides strengthening the storage infrastructure, the State government should ensure proper coordination among all stakeholders, including farmers and the Railways, which play a key role in moving paddy from DPCs to storage points or hulling units. In a consultative manner, the authorities should identify sites for temporary DPCs, apart from making materials available for preserving the procured paddy. The government should also contemplate opening up the system of procurement to rope in farmers producers' organisations, just as it permitted co-operative societies to operate DPCs in non-delta areas.

THE GIST

- Against the normal coverage of around four lakh acres, more than six lakh acres were brought under paddy cultivation.
- Under the decentralised procurement scheme of the Union Ministry, State governments procure paddy and wheat on behalf of the Centre, in addition to storing and distributing the grain in line with the Centre's policies.
- Besides strengthening the storage infrastructure, the State government should ensure proper coordination among all stakeholders, including farmers and the Railways, which play a key role in moving paddy from DPCs to storage points or hulling units.

Survey report for GBA area to include 'refused' households

Enumerators record more than 5.79 lakh households as closed, refused, or unsurveyable in the last four days

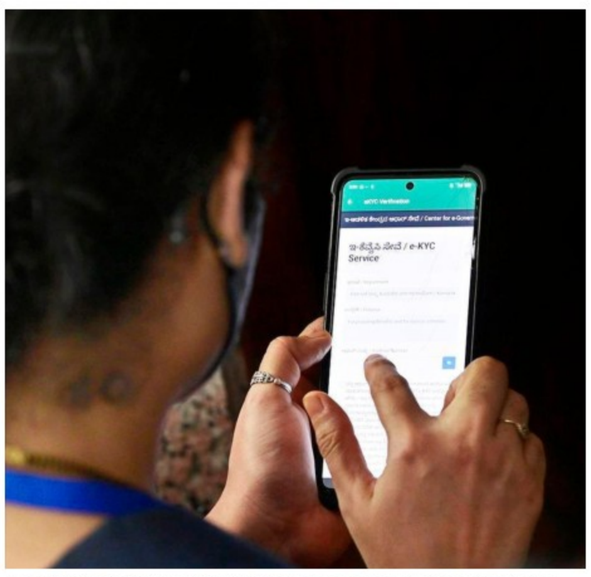
Rishita Khanna
BENGALURU

With the deadline approaching for the ongoing Social and Educational Survey, the progress report for the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) area will also include the households that have not been surveyed, sources said.

After the survey resumed on Thursday without the involvement of teachers, the completion percentage, which had been hovering around 41% until that date, jumped to over 64% by Sunday, just four days later.

The increase, however, reflects the inclusion of households that were closed, vacant, or had refused to participate. Corporations like Bengaluru Central that had previously recorded the lowest field completion are now reporting the highest progress, as many of the households that had refused the survey fall within their areas.

"By including all households that were visited, whether surveyed or not, officials aim to obtain a comprehensive understanding of participation patterns and the actual number of households in each area. Even if the survey could not be completed at some households, including them helps us estimate coverage and plan follow-up efforts effectively," said an official.


The Social and Educational Survey has been classified into three main categories — completed, refused, and unsurveyable, says a senior GBA official. FILE PHOTO

"Moreover, including all households in the new report also helps capture the genuine efforts of enumerators working on the ground. Convincing a household to participate in the survey can take up to an hour or more. In the same span, several households – sometimes as many as five or six, may refuse to participate. By recording both completed and refused households, officials can ensure that enumerators are genuinely making the effort to engage with residents, rather than simply marking houses as uncooperative without attempting the survey," the official added.

Technical glitches

Officials noted that after the survey resumed without teachers, who formed the majority of enumerators, technical issues also added to the operational challenges as enumerators were re-allocated to different corporations, and the data-collection app experienced glitches as staff remained linked to their original wards, slowing down reporting.

As a result, in the last four days, only 59,583 households were surveyed across all five corporations. At the same time, over 5.79 lakh households were recorded as closed, refused, or unsurveyable.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, a senior GBA official explained that the survey has been classified into three main categories – completed, refused, and unsurveyable. Completed households are those where the survey was fully conducted. Refused households are those that actively declined to participate, with family members required to document their refusal with signatures. Unsurveyable households include households that could not be surveyed for one of nine officially given reasons listed by the government.

UHID system

Several unsurveyable cases are tied to the Unique Household Identification (UHID) system. For example, a household may already have a UHID from an earlier survey, or a commercial property may have multiple UHIDs, preventing repeated surveys at the same location. Other reasons for being unsurveyable include houses that are locked, vacant, migrated families, commercial premises, borewell UHID conflicts, or participation in surveys conducted in other districts, taluks, or villages.

By including these households administratively, officials can at least account for all addresses and estimate participation levels accurately, even if survey data is not fully collected at each household, the senior official added.

Social and Educational Survey vital for equitable development, say experts

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Academics, researchers, and civil society members called for time-bound completion of the ongoing Social and Educational Survey in Karnataka, along with the involvement of the civil society and experts on the next stages of the exercise. They emphasised that updated data on the social and economic status of various communities is essential for an equitable development of the State.

At a panel discussion organised by the citizens' collective Bahutva Karnataka on Sunday, speakers underlined that the survey, being conducted by the Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes, was long overdue and critical for shaping evidence-based welfare policies.

A. Narayana, academic and writer, said that it was unfortunate that a routine data collection exercise had generated so much controversy. Citing the Supreme Court's Indira Sawhney judgment, he noted that all States were required to conduct such surveys every 10 years to assess social and educational backwardness.

Delegates at a panel discussion on the Social and Educational Survey, in Bengaluru on Sunday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Sunandamma, former Head of the Department of Women's Studies at Karnataka Women's University, said that the 2015 report of the commission had several shortcomings, including a lack of substantiation for some of its key recommendations.

Referring to the proposal to move the Kuruba community from category 2A to a new category – 1B – with 12% reservation, she said that the report did not adequately demonstrate the extent of backwardness. Ms. Sunandamma also noted that gender was not factored into the analysis of development indicators.

Azhar, a research scholar, pointed out that previous commission reports had shown that religious minorities, particularly Christians and Muslims, were underdeveloped in areas such as education, employment, and sex ratio. "While various schemes exist for minority welfare, there are no comprehensive development policies. This survey can help fill that gap," he said, adding that poor utilisation of allocated funds has undermined existing welfare programmes.

South Zone power consumers unite against privatisation, smart meters

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Consumer groups from the southern region came together on Sunday to oppose what they termed as the Centre's growing push to privatise the power sector and impose smart meters and 'Time of Day' (ToD) tariffs (where the price per unit of electricity varies according to the time for which it is used) across India.

Organised by the All India Electricity Consumers' Association (AIECA), the South Zone Electricity Consumers' Convention at Gandhi Bhavan in Bengaluru drew over 500 delegates, including engineers, consumer representatives, and activists from Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Kerala, Karnataka, Puducherry, and Tamil Nadu. The event, held under the banner 'Stop Privatisation of Electricity and Installation of Smart Meters', was part of AIECA's nationwide movement to defend electricity as a public service rather than a profit-making commodity. AIECA president Swapan Ghosh said that over 50% of electricity generation in the country is now in private hands, a stark increase since the liberalisation era of the 1990s and deepened through subsequent amendments to the Electricity Act. Mr. Ghosh stated that privatisation has transformed electricity from a welfare service into a profit-driven market commodity.

All India Electricity Consumers' Association working president Samar Sinha and other delegates at the South Zone Electricity Consumers' Convention at Gandhi Bhavan in Bengaluru on Sunday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Former IAS officer and social activist M.G. Devasahayam warned that current policies were forcing "cost-reflective tariffs" that remove cross-subsidies for farmers and households. He said that smart meters are being used as a coercive tool to justify tariff hikes, while the Centre's push to sell public utility stakes to private companies turns a public good into a private one.

Samar Sinha, working president of AIECA, said that the 2025 amendment to the Electricity Act was designed to benefit corporates by forcing States to fund all subsidies from their own budgets, closing the chapter on consumer relief. "Distribution in all Union Territories, except Andaman and Nicobar, has already been handed over to private firms," he said, calling for sustained united movements across India.

The convention passed a resolution demanding that the government stop privatisation of the power sector, halt installation of smart meters, withdraw the Time of Day (ToD) tariff, and roll back the 36-paise per unit surcharge and fixed charge hike in Karnataka.

Farmer killed in tiger attack in Mysuru

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

A farmer who was tending to cattle in Sargur taluk of Mysuru district was killed in a tiger attack on Sunday.

The incident took place near Mulluru village and the victim has been identified as Rajashekar, 54.

Perturbed by the incident, local villagers criticised Forest Department officials from Hediyala range who visited the spot, and staged a demonstration. The Sargur police have registered a case.

A senior official said the terrain was on the border of Mysuru Territorial Forests and Bandipur Tiger Reserve. There had been a slew of such incidents involving tigers in the area in recent times, with a farmer losing his vision following an attack during a combing operation at Badagalpura, also in Sargur taluk, a few days ago.

Meanwhile, Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha president Badagalpura Nagendra blamed the Forest Department for the incident, saying that it was their "irresponsibility" which had resulted in the death of the farmer. He said the location of Sunday's incident was hardly at a distance of seven to eight km from the earlier incident in which Mahadeva Gowda lost his eyesight in an tiger attack.

The increase in human-animal conflict in the region had been attributed to habitat disturbances and anthropogenic pressure in the area, apart from proliferation of resorts and hotels around Bandipur, said Mr. Nagendra.

Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre said that a compensation would be paid to the family of the deceased.

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Or write to us at customercare@thehindu.co.in
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THE HINDU | the hindu businessline | FRONTLINE | SPORTSTAR | The Hindu Young World | THE HINDU

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No: 06-MYS-2025
Dated: 13.10.2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

Name of work	Approx. Value
4 Core X 240 Sqmm PVC Insulated LTUG Cable with Aluminium Conductor. (Tender No.: L9255161B)	Rs. 1,06,78,500.00

Last date for submission of bids: Upto 10:30 Hrs. on 03.11.2025
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Materials Manager/ Mysuru
PUB/575/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2025-26
Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

PUBLIC NOTICE
Public are hereby informed that my clients have entered into an Agreement of sale with **Sri.Naresh M** for purchase of the below mentioned Schedule property and that **Sri.Naresh M** purchased the Schedule property from **Sri.Sadashiv** through a sale deed duly registered on 27.05.2010 vide **Doc. No.GNR-1-00274-2010-2011** in Book I Stored in CD No.GNRD18 in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Gandhinagar, Bangalore. That Sri.Sadashiv had lost/Misplaced the following documents/Title deeds as mentioned hereunder:- a) Letter of Allotment issued by CITB in favour of **Mr.K.Mammoo** and **Mr.K.M.Fareed** dated 17.03.1976, Possession Certificate dated 14.12.1977 issued by Bangalore Development Authority, b) Sale deed dated executed by BDA in favour of **Mr. K. Mammoo** and **Mr. F.M. Fareed,** duly registered on 17-1-1989, as Document No. 3237/88-89, Book-1, Volume-3508, at Pages 213 to 216, at the Office of the Sub-Registrar, Gandhinagar, Bangalore, c) Partition Deed registered on 21.01.1989 executed by **Mr. K. Mammoo** and **Mr. K.M. Fareed,** vide Document No. 3242/88-89, Book-1. Volume-3508, at Pages 217 to 221, at the Office of the Sub-Registrar, Head Quarter, Sub-Registrar, Gandhinagar, Bangalore, d)Sale deed executed by **Mr. K.M. Fareed** in favour of Sri. N. Sadashiv registered on 4-11-1992, vide Document No. 2150/91-92, Book-1, Volume 3885, at Pages 123 to 130, at the Office of the Sub-Registrar, Gandhinagar, Bangalore.
Any person/s/ Authority objecting the sale of the Schedule Property or in possession of the Schedule Property through any method of conveyance such as General Power of Attorney or Sale agreement or either through Mortgage or any other claim or ancestral claim, or holding the title deeds of the Schedule property shall intimate the same or may write to the Undersigned if they have any claim on the Schedule Property or in any manner what so ever within **Fifteen days** from the date of this publication and any objections, claims received thereafter will not be binding on my clients and my clients will proceed thereafter as if there are no claimants/objections and My client/s intends to obtain loan from HSBC Bank, M.G.Road Branch, Bangalore.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of immovable residential property bearing Corporation No.303, situated at **1 Main Road, Hebbal, Gangenahalli Extension,** PID No. 98-50-303, New Bruhath Bangalore Mahanagara Palike Ward No.20-Ganganagar, New BBMP property E.P.I.D No.8151177995, Bangalore measuring **East to West** : 60 Feet, And **North to South**: 33 Feet In all measuring 1980 Square Feet, and is bounded on the: **East by:** Road, **West by:** Site No.320, **North by:** Temple, **South by:** Site No. 302. It consists of a residential building on the Basement Floor measuring 371.25 Sq Feet, Ground Floor measuring 910 Sq Feet, First Floor measuring 860 Sq Feet and Second Floor measuring 108.75 Sq Feet with RCC roofing, mosaic Flooring, Jungle woods and Doors and windows with all civic amenities.
Smt. Gayathri.S.Acharya, M.Com,LLB, Advocate, No.630, 14th Cross, J.P.Nagar I Phase, Bangalore-560078
Mobile 9845124134.

PUBLIC NOTICE
My client **Mr.TANVEER PASHA .S. S/o.Mr.R.Sardar,** Residing at # B-1035, Chikkatoguru Hosa Road Junction, Electronic City, Bangalore-560 100, intends to purchase the Residential Property Bearing **No.6/23, Old Site No.8,** situated at "C" Street, Parappa Field, New BBMP Ward No.115, (Vannarpet), Neelasandra, Bangalore, from the vendor **Mrs.SHAMSHAD BEGUM, W/o.Mr.H.S.Ali Shariff,** Residing at # 443, 10th Cross, M.S.Ramaiah North City, Thanisandra, Bangalore-560 077, and who claims to be the Absolute owner thereon.
Any person who has got any Right, Title, Interest or claim and objections if any to the proposed sale transaction may write to the undersigned with documentary proof within **TEN DAYS** from the date of Publication of this Notice, failing which it is presumed that there are no claims, and no objections, and my client will proceed with the said sale transaction and no claims or objections will be entertained thereafter.
ABDUL LATEEF KHAN, M.A.LL.B.,
GUFRAN .G. B.Com., LL.B.,
ZAMEER BASHA, B.A., LL.B.,
Advocates
16, 12th Cross, B.S.A. Road, 1st Stage, Pillanna Garden, Bangalore–560 084
Cell No.9845110533
Place : Bangalore Date : 27-10-2025

Ramanagara medical college project still in limbo

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

The State government had earlier announced the establishment of two new medical colleges in Ramanagara and Kanakapura taluks of Bengaluru South district. However, there is uncertainty on the proposed medical college in Ramanagara, as the State Cabinet has given approval only to the medical college to be set up in Kanakapura.

In a recent Cabinet meeting, the State government gave administrative approval to Kanakapura Medical College with an autonomous status and 150 undergraduate (MBBS) seats.

₹550-crore project

The project, to be undertaken at a cost of about ₹550 crore, will include a medical college, a 300-bed hospital, hostels for boys and girls, quarters for teaching and non-teaching staff, and other facilities. The entire cost of the project will be borne by the Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences (RGUHS).

Political twists

Plans for the establishment of a government medical college in Kanakapura have seen many political twists. The previous BJP government shifted the medical college, which was earlier sanctioned for Kanakapura, to Chikkaballapur. However, the Congress government has been making continuous efforts to set up a government medical college in Kanakapura, the home turf of Deputy Chief Minsiter D.K. Shivakumar.

The college, which was to be built on the RGUHS-proposed campus in Ramanagara, was transferred to Kanakapura by the government in 2023-24. However, in the wake of strong opposition from the public, the State government announced that it would set up two government medical colleges seperately in Ramanagara and Kanakapura. After deciding to establish the medical colleges in Ramanagara in collaboration with the district hospital and in Kanakapura in collaboration with the taluk hospital, the government submitted a proposal to the National Medical Commission (NMC).

However, the government's proposal was rejected owing to lack of infrastructure and non-appointment of teaching and non-teaching staff in 2024-25.

In 2025-26, a request was submitted to set up the proposed colleges without appointing the required number of teaching staff – the NMC rejected the proposal yet again.

Following this setback, the State government took the decision of setting up a medical college with autonomous status only in Kanakapura..

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Medical Education Minister Sharan Prakash Patil said, "Tenders will be called soon and the construction work will start. The work will take at least two years to complete. After that, a proposal will be submitted to the NMC seeking approval for the start of operations at the college."

Further, Dr. Patil stated that as the taluk hospital in Kanakapura does not have a 300-bed capacity, a medical college cannot be set up in collaboration with this hospital. "Therefore, the college will open only after both the college and hospital buildings are completed," he added.

Plans for Ramanagara

"The proposal to start a medical college in Ramanagara was rejected thrice due to lack of staff recruitment and necessary infrastructure. Construction work on the new campus of RGUHS in Ramanagara is already in full swing, and the medical college will be ready by January 2026. We will recruit the necessary staff and open the medical college in Ramanagara next year in collaboration with the district hospital," Dr. Patil added.

Bagalkot

The government has taken steps to set up a new medical college in Bagalkot as well, the Minister said.

"A proposal will be submitted to the NMC next year in this regard. In addition, as announced in the budget for 2025-26, a decision has been taken to build mental health hospitals on the model of NIMHANS in Mysuru and Kalaburagi at a cost of ₹100 crore each, and administrative approval for the same will be sought in the next Cabinet meeting," Dr. Patil stated.

Timings
BENGALURU

MONDAY, OCT. 27	
RISE 06:12	SET 17:55
RISE 10:54	SET 22:20
TUESDAY, OCT. 28	
RISE 06:12	SET 17:55
RISE 11:44	SET 23:15
WEDNESDAY, OCT. 29	
RISE 06:12	SET 17:54
RISE 12:30	SET 00:00

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	30	23
Mysuru	30	19
Bengaluru	29	21

Bengaluru Today
26°C The intermittent spells of moderate to heavy rain and thundershower with strong windsto occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
28°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be comfortable. Spell of moderate rain and thundershower to occur.

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THE HINDU
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PULSE-CHECK

GETTY IMAGES

New study finds different roots for early and late autism diagnoses

A large international study suggests that autism diagnosed in childhood, and autism recognised later in life may arise from partly distinct developmental and genetic patterns, offering fresh insights into diversity within the spectrum

Anirban Mukhopadhyay

For decades, autism has been understood as a condition that reveals itself in the first few years of life, with clinicians looking for tell-tale difficulties in toddlers. Yet a growing number of people today are diagnosed only in adolescence or adulthood, often after years of struggling in school or with relationships. A new *Nature* study asks whether these cases were simply missed earlier or reflect something biologically distinct.

To investigate this question, an international team of researchers led by Varun Warrier, associate professor at University of Cambridge, combined two streams of evidence. From four long-term studies that tracked groups of children from birth to adolescence, they examined how children's behaviour unfolded using structured behavioural questionnaires. In parallel, they analysed genetic information from nearly 50,000 autistic individuals – one of the largest such datasets assembled to date.

The researchers tested two possibilities in particular. The first, which they called the "unitary model", proposed that autism has the same genetic roots regardless of when it is diagnosed, with later cases reflecting subtler traits that were simply overlooked earlier. The second, called the "developmental model", suggested that earlier- and later-diagnosed autism may follow partly distinct genetic and developmental pathways. In other words – there could be more than one kind of trajectory into autism.

Two pathways

The behavioural data from the long-term studies supported the latter model. One group showed difficulties in social interactions, communication, and behaviour that were evident earlier in life and persisted into adulthood. These children were more often diagnosed in preschool or primary school. Another group showed far fewer difficulties at first, although these became more pronounced in adolescence, particularly as schoolwork and friendships became more demanding. These children tended to be diagnosed later in life.

The group diagnosed later also showed genetic links to higher educational attainment, which the researchers suggested could help explain why early difficulties are less apparent in some children.

These findings challenge the idea that autism diagnosed later is simply missed earlier. Instead, they suggest there may be a second pathway in which difficulties emerge more strongly only in adolescence – a distinction with both biological and social roots.

Fingerprints of timing

The genetic analysis revealed two partly distinct patterns of genetic variants across many people. One was linked more closely to earlier diagnoses and was associated with pronounced social and communication difficulties in early life but showed only weak genetic ties to conditions such as attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) or depression. The other, linked to later diagnoses, carried stronger associations with ADHD, post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, and self-harm.

The two profiles were only partly overlapping, suggesting that while they shared some roots, they weren't identical.

"It could be a missed diagnosis – there are many factors associated with later diagnosis, and genetics explains only about 10% of the variation in age at autism diagnosis," said Varun Warrier, assistant professor at Cambridge University and the study's corresponding author. "But what it shows is that there are two different underlying genetic causes."

He added that because genetics accounted for only a small share of when autism is recognised, social and environmental factors play a larger role in shaping who gets diagnosed and at what stage.

When challenges arise

Sally J. Rogers, a professor at the University of California, Davis, said the field has been aware of differences in the age of onset.

"The field has known for a long time that the times of onset or recognition vary in autism, so the paper is helpful in understanding one biological aspect to age of onset differences, along with other variables at play," she said. "At any time children, or adults for that matter, are having difficulty coping with the challenges of everyday life, the next steps involve understanding the nature of those challenges and providing interventions appropriate to their difficulties and strengths."

In practice, this means conducting an assessment for autism followed by tailored support, regardless of whether one's difficulties have surfaced at a young or later ages.

This said, adolescents who receive a diagnosis later often struggle with mental health problems that can compound their challenges. "We need urgent support for co-occurring mental health conditions as this can have a huge impact on quality of life," Dr. Warrier said. The challenge for health systems is to recognise these vulnerabilities early and provide integrated care that addresses both autism and its common companions in mental health.

Life beyond diagnosis

Patricia Howlin, a professor of clinical child psychology at the Institute of Psychiatry in London, noted that findings from long-term studies resonate with what clinicians see in practice: that autism can unfold in different ways across development. "Later diagnosis is much more common among individuals whose early symptoms are subtle or atypical," she said.

In the past, many autistic girls have gone unrecognised because diagnostic criteria were largely derived from early-onset autism in boys.

These clinical realities can blur the boundary between autism that actually emerges later and autism that's recognised late. And when the individuals' difficulties are overlooked, they may miss out on vital educational and social support. By adolescence, their problems can be compounded by anxiety, depression, or social isolation. Ultimately, in adulthood, the individual with undiagnosed autistic may be misdiagnosed with other psychiatric disorders and deprived of appropriate help. "Social, educational, and health systems need to be much more aware of the different trajectories of autism," Dr. Howlin added. "Lack of typical early symptoms does not exclude a later diagnosis."

Like much of large-scale genetic research, this study is also based mainly on people of European descent, which limits how directly its findings can be applied to other regions, including India.

"Who receives a diagnosis and when they receive it differs substantially across cultures," Dr. Warrier said. "I'd be very surprised if we see more people being diagnosed as autistic in adolescence than in childhood in India, possibly because of different social and cultural norms." He added that priorities, presumably for researchers and policymakers, must include raising awareness, reducing stigma, and developing tests and checklists that work well in local languages and cultural settings.

Taken together, the new study underscores that autism is not a single story but many. Some pathways emerge in early childhood and others in adolescence, and each one carries partly distinct genetic patterns. As Dr. Warrier put it, autism is best seen as "multiple spectra with possibly different biological and social pathways." For families, clinicians, and policymakers, acknowledging this diversity may be the first step towards better support across their loved ones' lives.

Anirban Mukhopadhyay is a geneticist by training and science communicator from New Delhi.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

October 27 is celebrated as Infantry Day. A quiz on the Queen of Battle

Vembu Shankar

QUESTION 1
Infantry Day is celebrated to commemorate the landing of which battalion of the Indian Army at the Srinagar airfield on October 27, 1947?

QUESTION 2
Which Infantry regiments motto is derived from a Sanskrit phrase appearing in the *Shiva Purana* (Rudra Samhita, Yudh Kanda, Chapter 32, Verse 18)?

QUESTION 3
Which regiment features a water cooled weapon in its insignia ?

QUESTION 4
Which regiment's insignia features a naval vessel? It is considered as one of the first regiments to be deployed overseas.

QUESTION 5
The leaves of which tree is featured along with two *katars* in the insignia of the Rajput regiment?

QUESTION 6
In the Regimental Hierarchy of the Indian Army in the 1920s, which regiment was positioned at number 9?

QUESTION 7
Which regiment pioneered an unique concept of Mandir, Masjid, Gurudwara and Gompa under one roof to promote unity among soldiers of different faiths?

QUESTION 8
Which regiments' training centre moved from Agra to Gwalior and is presently located in Bengaluru?

QUESTION 9
The insignia of which Infantry regiment features a *chakram* or quoit, with a mounted *kirpan*?

Visual question:
This is a memorial for the soldiers of which Infantry Regiment at the Batasia Loop in Darjeeling?

Questions and Answers to the October 24 edition of the daily quiz: 1. The exact date and time during which Mole Day is celebrated. **Ans: October 23, from 6:02 a.m. to 6:02 p.m.**
2. The numerical value of the constant commemorated on Mole Day. **Ans: 6.02×10^{23}. It is the number of elementary entities such as atoms or molecules in one mole of a substance**
3. The scientist after whom the constant is named. **Ans: Amedeo Avogadro; he proposed that equal volumes of gases at the same temperature and pressure contain the same number of molecules**
4. The definition of a mole in chemistry. **Ans: A mole is a unit that measures how much of a substance there is. It equals about 6.02×10^{23} particles, such as atoms or molecules**
5. This Italian scientist revived Avogadro's hypothesis at the Karlsruhe Congress in 1860. **Ans: Stanislao Cannizzaro**
Visual: The connection between this lunar crater and Mole Day. **Ans: It is named after the Italian scientist Amedeo Avogadro**
Early Birds: Siddhartha Viswanathan| Tito Shiladitya| Arun Kumar Singh| Suchit Narottam| Sumana Dutta
Colonel Vembu Shankar is a retired army officer.

KNOW YOUR ENGLISH

His boss is a hoity-toity snob

Both Batman and Superman, although superheroes, can also be considered vigilantes

S. Upendran

What is the difference between 'vigil' and 'vigilante'? (G. Harindranath)
The 'i' in the two words is pronounced like the 'i' in 'bit', 'chit' and 'wit', while the 'g' is like the 'j' in 'jam', 'juice' and 'junior'. The 'a' in 'vigilante' is like the 'a' in 'apple' and 'ant', while the final 'e' sounds like the 'i' in the first syllable. The two words are pronounced 'VI-jil' and 'vi-ji-LAN-ti', respectively. Both come from the Latin 'vigil' meaning 'watchful, awake'. Therefore, when you 'keep vigil' what you are doing is staying alert – perhaps you are taking care of someone who is rather unwell or you are protecting your house against vandals. In both cases, your senses are alert, and you are tuned in to what is happening around you.

The parents took turns keeping vigil in the hospital.

The protestors are planning a weekend vigil in front of the Assembly.

'Vigilante', which comes from the Latin 'vigilantem' meaning 'watchful' or 'careful', is mostly used to suggest disapproval. When you refer to someone as a 'vigilante', you are suggesting that the individual has taken law into his own hands. He believes the police and other organisations that are supposed to maintain law and order have failed in their duty. It has now become his duty to punish those who commit crimes – either by legal or illegal means.

Our corrupt system has forced quite a few individuals to become vigilantes.

No one knows who the vigilante is, but he has put the fear of God in politicians.

Which is grammatically correct: playing in the ground or on the ground? (R. Meera, Hyderabad)
In terms of grammar, both are acceptable; the two sentences, however, have a very different meaning. When you say that someone is playing 'on' the ground, what you are suggesting is that he is standing on the surface – in other words, his feet are in contact with the ground. When someone is 'in' the ground, it could suggest that he is actually within or inside the ground, and not on top of it. If the ground has an enclosure, however, it is possible to say 'in'. For example, one can talk about 'playing in the park/playground'.

How is the word 'hoity-toity' pronounced? (L. Devender, Lucknow)
The word consists of four syllables, and the first in both, rhymes with 'boy', 'joy' and 'coy'. The 'y' is pronounced like the 'i' in 'it', 'sit' and 'chit'; the word is pronounced 'hoy-ti-TOY-ti' with the main stress on 'toi'. When you call someone 'hoity-toity', what you mean is that he is a bit of a snob; he thinks that he is better than the others in the room. He looks at others with contempt.

Thara went to one of those hoity-toity universities in the States.

upendrankye@gmail.com

Word of the day

Privation:
a state of extreme poverty; act of depriving someone of food or money or rights

Synonyms: deprivation, neediness, want

Usage: *He lived a life of privation and misery.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/privationpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /pɹɪˈveɪʃən/, /pɹaɪˈveɪʃən/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

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A BG-BGE

DKS's Delhi visit amid leadership tussle is being keenly watched

He is expected to brief the high command about recent political developments, and sources say the discussion could also revolve around the change of leadership; the Chief Minister is also expected to travel to Delhi after November second week

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

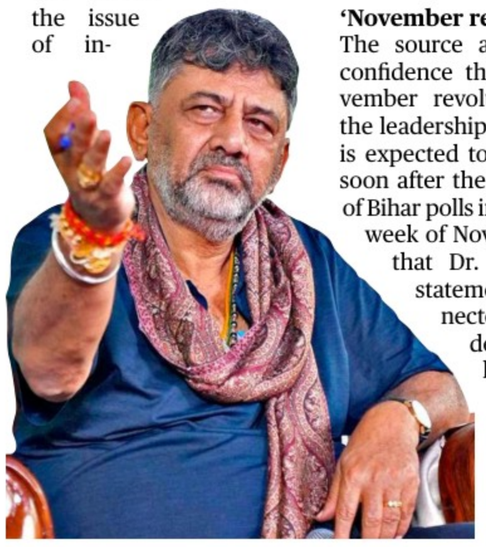
Amid the Congress leadership issue surfacing again in the public domain, KPCC president and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar's visit to Delhi on Sunday is being keenly watched. He is scheduled to meet Central leaders, whom he is expected to brief about the recent developments in the party and the government.

Congress Bhavans
Mr. Shivakumar is expected to invite Central leaders, including Rahul Gandhi, to the foundation stone laying ceremony for 100 Congress Bhavans in the State scheduled to be held in November. During the meeting, the recent political events in the State are also expected to figure prominently. Besides, the discussion could revolve around the change of leadership, sources indicated. The Chief Minister is also expected to travel to Delhi to meet leaders after the second week of November.

After a lull in the public discourse on the Chief Minister's post, the debate was reignited by Yathindra Siddaramaiah, MLC and son of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, by indicating Public Works Minister Satish Jarkiholi as the successor to Mr. Siddaramaiah.

Successor to ideology
Though, subsequently, Dr. Yathindra and the Chief Minister clarified that Mr. Jarkiholi, a Nayaka community leader from Belagavi, is being seen as a successor to Mr. Siddaramaiah's ideology and ideological base of AHINDA, the statement seems have created unrest among leaders.

"After the K.N. Rajanna episode, the leadership discussion had taken a backseat. Dr. Yathindra's statement has not only brought back the discussion to the forefront, it has given enough fodder to the Opposition. Mr. Shivakumar as KPCC president will also discuss the issue of in-discipline with the Central leaders," a source close to the Deputy Chief Minister said.



The Central leaders would have also received inputs on these developments and will be assessing the situation independently, they maintained.

'November revolution'
The source also exuded confidence that the "November revolution" over the leadership in the State is expected to take shape soon after the completion of Bihar polls in the second week of November, and that Dr. Yathindra's statement is connected to the leadership tussle. By November, the Chief Minister would have completed two-and-a-half years in office. The source pointed out to a purported agreement over sharing of power between Mr. Siddaramaiah and Mr. Shivakumar for two-and-a-half years each which has been rejected in public by the Chief Minister as a 'figment of imagination'.

While the Congress leaders are anticipating escalation of the political battle between the camps of the Chief Minister and the Deputy Chief Minister, another senior leader said that Dr. Yathindra's statement could have riled other senior leaders in the Chief Minister's circle who were entertaining hopes of an opportunity.

Meanwhile, Mr. Shivakumar told reporters that there has been an instruction from the high command before, and that the Chief Minister will respond to it.

Cyclone Montha: Widespread rainfall forecast till Oct. 30

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Rain clouds gather over the BCCI Centre of Excellence near Bengaluru on Sunday. K. MURALI KUMAR

The India Meteorological Department (IMD), Bengaluru, has forecast fairly widespread rainfall over Karnataka for the next four days owing to Cyclone Montha.

"Fairly widespread rainfall is expected over Karnataka from October 27 to 30 because of the anticipated cyclone," IMD, Bengaluru, director C.S Patil said.

The IMD said that a depression over east-central Arabian Sea moved nearly south-westwards with a speed of 13 kmph during the past six hours and lay centered at 8.30 a.m .on Sunday over the same region, about 970 km west to northwest of Mangaluru.

For coastal Karnataka on October 27, the IMD has forecast heavy to very heavy rain and thundershowers with sustained winds at one or two places over Udupi and Uttara Kannada districts and heavy rain and thundershowers with sustained winds at one or two places over Dakshina Kannada district.

For north interior Karnataka, it has forecast heavy rain and thundershowers with gusty winds at one or two places over Belagavi and Dharwad districts and light to moderate rain and thundershowers at many places over Bagalkot, Bidar, Gadag, Haveri, Kalaburagi, Koppal, Raichur, Vijayapura, and Yadgir districts.

For south-interior Karnataka, IMD has forecast heavy rain and thundershowers with gusty winds at one or two places over Shivamogga, Chikkamagaluru, and Hassan districts.

"Light to moderate rain and thundershowers are likely to occur at a few places over Ballari, Bengaluru (Rural), Bengaluru (Urban), Chamarajanagar, Chickballapur, Chitradurga, Davanagere, Kodagu, Kolar, Mandya, Mysuru, Bengaluru South, Tumakuru and Vijayanagara districts," IMD said.

For Bengaluru city and the neighbourhood the forecast for the next 36 hours is generally cloudy skies with light to moderate rain. It added that the maximum and the minimum temperatures are very likely to be around 27°C and 20°C respectively.

'No confusion over remark by Yathindra'

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

"There is no confusion over the statement of MLC Yathindra Siddaramaiah (son of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah). When he said that I can succeed Mr. Siddaramaiah, he meant to say that I can lead the AHINDA movement in the State after Mr. Siddaramaiah retires from active public life. The statement is about ideological succession and not political succession," Public Works Minister Satish Jarkiholi said in Belagavi on Sunday.

He said that it is wrong to interpret the statement that he will be the next Chief Minister or that Mr. Siddaramaiah will leave office. "It is about ideological leadership and the AHINDA movement. There is no other meaning" he said.

Cabinet reshuffle
To a query on Cabinet reshuffle or expansion, Mr. Jarkiholi said that it is being discussed for some time now. But then, the high command will decide on the issue.

"Mr. Siddaramaiah has already clarified the issue. I am not authorised to comment on it," he said.

He said that the statement of Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda is nothing out of the ordinary as everyone will have to resign if the high command demands it. "If they ask us to quit, we will have to quit to make room for new members," he said.

Inflammatory speech: Case filed against RSS leader

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

Kalladka Prabhakar Bhat

The Dakshina Kannada police have registered a case against Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) leader Kalladka Prabhakar Bhat on charges of making an inflammatory speech during a Deepotsava programme at Uppalige in Puttur taluk on October 20.

In the speech, which was widely viewed on the 'Kahale News' channel on YouTube, Mr. Bhat is seen asking Hindu women to give birth to more children, while saying that Muslim women were delivering more than two children.

Based on a complaint by one Eshwari Padmunja, who stated that his speech was creating hatred between religious communities, the Puttur Rural police on Saturday registered a case against Mr. Bhat and the event organisers under Sections 79, 196, 299, 302, and 3(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

The police have issued a notice to Mr. Bhat to appear for an inquiry on October 30. The notice was issued under Section 35 (3) of the BNSS.

Meanwhile, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister Priyank Kharge launched an attack on Mr. Bhat for his assertive posture on the RSS's proposed route march on November 2 at Chittapur, which is Mr. Kharge's Assembly constituency.

Stating that the RSS can do 'path sanchalan' if the court permits, Mr. Kharge said that no one is above the law or the Constitution. "Who is he? Is he above the law or the Constitution? We have to adhere to the law. Can the government keep quiet otherwise? Action as per the law will be taken if he speaks in public like the way things are said in shakhas," the Minister added.

Claiming that he has not influenced anyone on this issue, he said that 11 organisations have sought permission to take out a procession at Chittapur, and that officials will hold a meeting with regard to this.

Report to court
"The officials will submit a report to the court after the meeting and the court will decide. It is difficult to permit everyone," he said.

CORRIDORS OF POWER

Problems for enumerators
Enumerators for the Social and Educational Survey in Bengaluru are facing difficulties in completing their task. Besides technical glitches with the mobile-based application, they are facing difficulties reaching out to households they have been assigned to meet and collect data. This is because enumerators have been instructed to visit the households based on the unique household identification number (UHID), assigned to the electricity meter, and conduct the survey. Bescom officials have pasted stickers with respect to each electricity consumer as part of mapping the households for the survey. In some households, there is more than one UHID, and this has caused many difficulties for enumerators. For instance, in many wards in Vijayanagara and Govindarajanagar constituencies, UHIDs are double the actual households. Bescom officials pasted UHID on meters of government offices, borewells, and commercial buildings too in some instances. An enumerator said some houses have as many as five UHIDs. As the number of UHIDs and households are not matching, enumerators have been going to houses multiple times to find out whether the particular household was covered in the survey or not. Herculean task indeed!

Constant bickering
The verbal duels between Union Minister and JD(S) leader H.D. Kumaraswamy and Deputy Chief Minister and KPCC chief D.K. Shivakumar are unlikely to end anytime soon. The two Vokkaliga leaders have been accusing each other on multiple issues, especially after the Assembly bypoll result in Channapatna wherein Nikhil Kumaraswamy was defeated by C.P. Yogeshwar (Congress) in 2024.
Mr. Kumaraswamy has been opposing the Greater Bengaluru Integrated Township at Bidadi (GBIT) in the Bengaluru South district, claiming that it would cause immense damage to the livelihoods of farmers, who are going to lose fertile land, and opposed the acquisition of land. Mr. Shivakumar, on the other hand, claimed that GBIT would be India's first AI city that would redefine urban living.
Previously, the JD(S) leader had criticised the renaming of Ramanagara district as Bengaluru South, arguing that it would only boost the real estate industry. Now, in the latest instance, Mr. Shivakumar took a jibe at the JD(S) leader and said the government will acquire land in areas where Mr. Kumaraswamy brings investment and industries. Ironically, during the short Congress-JD(S) tenure, the two called themselves "Jodettu" (a pair of bullocks in harness).

Kudos to officers
During the Jana Mana programme in Puttur organised by Congress MLA Ashok Kumar Rai, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah *(pictured)* said the Dakshina Kannada district has been seeing a positive change in the law and order situation, and he gave credit to Sudheer Kumar Reddy and K. Arun as Mangaluru Police Commissioner and Dakshina Superintendent of Police, respectively, for this.

The district had been seeing umpteen law and order incidents, some of them turning into communal issues. "With these two officers, you might have seen a positive change, yes or no?" Mr. Siddaramaiah asked the crowd with a smile. The two officers have been working jointly to curb illegal extraction of sand and laterite stones and consumption of drugs.

Nagesh Prabhu
Raghava M.

Norms issued for layouts outside local planning areas

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department has issued guidelines to approve layout formation in converted lands in gram panchayats that fall outside the jurisdiction of local planning areas.

Under the Karnataka Gram Swaraj and Panchayat Raj (Amendment) Act, 2025, it is mandatory to secure the plan sanction from the planning authorities or gram panchayat to receive khatha or PID number for the properties, said RDPR Minister Priyank Kharge in a statement on Sunday. He said that developers have to execute relinquishment deeds to transfer places for public infrastructure.

Mr. Kharge said that based on documents and after ensuring that civil works took place adhering to the guidelines for those properties falling outside the local planning area, these properties have to be brought under the tax net.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is brought to the notice of General Public that our Client is intending to purchase Agricultural Dry Land bearing New Sy.No.56/7, (Old Sy No. 56/6 then Old Sy No. 56/1) measuring to an extent of 0-5 Guntas (Five guntas) situated at S. Bingipura Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, bounded on **East By** : Land in Sy No. 56/3, **West By** : Property belongs to Smt. Anitha, **North By:** Property belongs to Smt. Rekha, **South By** : Property belongs to Smt. Rekha from its owner **Sri. S. NITHIN,** S/o., Late Somashekar Reddy, No. 200, 8th Cross, Begur Road, Hongasandra, B'lore. Any person/s having objections to the said transactions can register their claim/s with documentary evidence with the undersigned within 15 days of publication hereof, failing which, our client will proceed with the transactions and any claim/s received thereafter will not be entertained.

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H.V.SUNIL KUMAR RAO
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BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER (Through KPP Portal Only)

BWSSB invites tenders from registered agencies for the following works.

Office of the Chief Engineer (South), 7th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 009.

Sl. No.	Division	IFT Number & Category	Amount put to tender / EMD (in Rs.)	Last date & time for Submission of Tender	Date & time for Opening of Tender
1	South -1	BWSSB/EES-1/AE/TO/2036/2025-26 DATED: 18.10.2025 Reserved for CAT-II(A)	Rs. 52,98,636/- / Rs. 53,000/-	14.11.2025 upto 4:00 p.m.	17.11.2025 after 4:00 p.m.
2		BWSSB/EES-1/AE/TO/2037/2025-26 DATED: 18.10.2025 Reserved for CAT-II(A)	Rs. 49,04,692/- / Rs. 49,100/-		
3		BWSSB/EES-1/AE/TO/2038/2025-26 DATED: 18.10.2025 (Reserved for CAT-I)	Rs. 70,67,062/- / Rs. 70,700/-		
4		BWSSB/EES-1/AE/TO/2039/2025-26 DATED: 18.10.2025 (Reserved for ST Category)	Rs. 52,24,523/- / Rs. 52,300/-		
5		BWSSB/EES-1/AE/TO/2040/2025-26 DATED: 18.10.2025 (Reserved for SC Category)	Rs. 55,54,499/- / Rs. 55,600/-		
6		BWSSB/EES-1/AE/TO/2041/2025-26 DATED: 18.10.2025 Reserved for CAT-II(A)	Rs. 61,47,291/- / Rs. 61,500/-		
7		BWSSB/EES-1/AE/TO/2042/2025-26 DATED: 18.10.2025 (Reserved for SC Category)	Rs. 61,71,382/- / Rs. 61,800/-		
8		BWSSB/EES-1/AE/TO/2043/2025-26 DATED: 18.10.2025 (Reserved for SC Category)	Rs. 90,83,996/- / Rs. 90,900/-		
9		BWSSB/EES-1/AE/TO/2044/2025-26 DATED: 18.10.2025 (Reserved for SC Category)	Rs. 76,02,553/- / Rs. 76,100/-		
10		BWSSB/EES-1/AE/TO/2045/2025-26 DATED: 18.10.2025 Reserved for CAT-II(A)	Rs. 85,58,731/- / Rs. 85,600/-		
11		BWSSB/EES-1/AE/TO/2046/2025-26 DATED: 18.10.2025 (Reserved for ST Category)	Rs. 58,14,974/- / Rs. 58,200/-		

Sd/- Executive Engineer (South)-1.

Office of the Chief Engineer (WWM-West), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 009.

12	WWM-H & A.Valley -2	BWSSB/EE(WWM-H&A.V)-2/PB-1/ 566/2025-26 DATED: 17.10.2025	Rs. 97.40 Lakhs / Rs. 2,43,500/-	03.11.2025 upto 5:30 p.m.	04.11.2025 at 5:00 p.m.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (WWM-H&A.Valley)-2.

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** For further details contact the above signed office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/RA/3396/2025-26

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TENDERS

BAR COUNCIL OF INDIA TRUST (PEARL FIRST), NEW DELHI
21, Rouse Avenue Institutional Area, New Delhi - 110 002

NIT No.: BCIT(PF):D/EOI/2025/01 (IIULER, AMARAWATI, A.P.) Dated: 21.10.2025

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Bar Council of India Trust-Pearl First invites EOI-cum-RFP from reputed Architectural Consultants/ firms for Empanelment for preparing Master plan, Designing of Building and requisite facilities for the New Campus of IIULER (Law University) on 55 acres of land located at Sakhamuru, Guntur, Amaravati (A.P.).

ITEM DESCRIPTION	Bar Council of India Trust-PF invites EOI-cum-RFP from reputed Architectural Consultants / firms for Empanelment for preparing Master plan, Designing of Building & requisite facilities for the **New Campus of IIULER (Law University) on 55 acres of land located at Sakhamuru, Guntur, Amaravati (A.P.).**
ESTIMATED VALUE OF WORK (inclusive GST)	As per Design And Specifications
TENDER FEE	Nil
BID SECURITY	Bid Security Declaration (as per tender conditions)
ISSUE / DOWNLOAD OF TENDER	Issue / Download of Tender from 21.10.2025 to 14.11.2025 from www.barcouncilofindia.org Same can be downloaded from QR Code given hereinbelow.
LAST DATE FOR QUERIES & PRE-BID MEETING	Last date for queries :- 16.11.2025 (up to 16:00 hrs) through bcit.iiulerap@gmail.com Pre-bid Meeting – 10.11.2025 at 15.00 Hrs through Zoom meeting. Link shared in Tender document.
LAST DATE FOR SUBMISSION (STAGE-1) -20.11.2025	For other stages As per tender schedule

Tender documents can be downloaded from the website www.barcouncilofindia.org. Technical bid and all requisite documents can be submitted/uploaded through online or offline mode. The Bar Council of India Trust-PF reserves the right to cancel, modify, or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof. Any corrigendum/addendum shall be uploaded only on the websites mentioned above; bidders are advised to regularly visit the sites for updates

OFFICIATING SECRETARY
Bar Council of India Trust- Pearl First
21, Rouse Avenue Institutional Area, Near Bal Bhawan, New Delhi – 110002

Kurnool tragedy: motorcyclist was drunk and riding rashly, say police

The viscera samples of the dead motorcyclist, B. Shiva Shankar, had traces of alcohol; his friend who was riding pillion reportedly told the police that he tried to remove the two-wheeler from the road, but the bus hit the vehicle and dragged it

Hareesh P.
KURNOOL

The motorcyclist involved in the bus tragedy in Kurnool in Andhra Pradesh, which left 19 passengers dead, was drunk, the police said on Sunday.

"The Regional Forensic Science Laboratory [RFSL-Kurnool] submitted its report confirming that the rider, B. Shiva Shankar, was drunk," Superintendent of Police Vikrant Patil said. The report showed the viscera samples of the dead motorcyclist had alcohol traces, he added.

The private sleeper bus travelling to Bengaluru from Hyderabad caught fire after hitting the motorbike lying on the road in the early hours of Friday. Shiva Shankar of Kurnool had lost control over the two-wheeler and hit the divider. A while later, the bus hit the vehicle and caught fire, the police said.

Fatal accident: The private sleeper bus had hit the stranded motorbike and caught fire, killing at least 19 people. NAGARA GOPAL

CCTV footage from a fuel station showed Shankar, with his friend riding pillion, entering the bunk around 2.25 a.m. on Friday and filling fuel for ₹300. He then rode the motorcycle rashly and almost fell at one point before regaining balance. A few minutes later, Shankar hit the divider and fell, according to the police. He died on spot.

The pillion rider reportedly told the police that he tried to remove the motorbike from the road, but the bus hit it and dragged it.

Bodies handed over

The district administration handed over the bodies of 17 passengers to their family members after the A.P. FSL released DNA test reports of 18 victims.

The Collector said the district administration had provided accommodation, transport and food to family members of the deceased who had come from other States.

Driver under lens

The police are investigating the allegation that Miryala Lakshmaiah, the driver of the bus, obtained his licence by submitting fake documents. Lakshamian allegedly got his heavy vehicle driving licence by submitting a fake educational qualification certificate. No case has been registered till now, the official said.

(With inputs from Rajulapudi Srinivas and G.V.R. Subba Rao)

Reveal facts about Google project, CPI(M) tells A.P. govt.

The Hindu Bureau
VISAKHAPATNAM

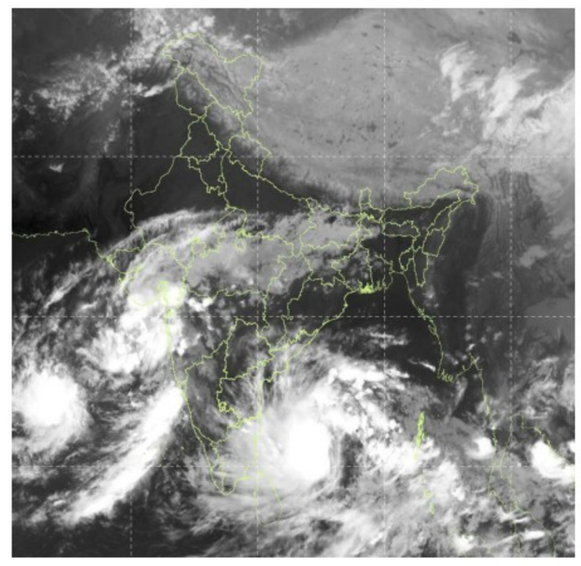
Communist Party of India (Marxist) State secretary V. Srinivasa Rao demanded that the Andhra Pradesh government reveal the facts on the Google Data Centre proposed to be set up in Visakhapatnam in the wake of conflicting reports on its employment potential and adverse environmental impact.

In a letter to Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, the CPI(M) leader said that while IT Minister N. Lokesh claimed the data centre would generate 1.8 lakh jobs, the BJP leaders had ruled out such a prospect.

He alleged that the government was trying to mislead the people.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.00 HRS)

Forecast for Monday: Heavy to Very Heavy Rainfall with isolated Extremely Heavy Rainfall very likely at isolated places over coastal Andhra Pradesh, coastal Karnataka, East Rajasthan, Gujarat, Kerala & Mahe, Odisha, Rayalaseema and Tamil Nadu Puducherry & Karaikal.

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	33.7	24.2	Kozhikode	—	33.4	25.6
Ahmedabad	—	35.5	25.8	Kurnool	—	33.2	24.0
Aizawl	—	30.8	20.5	Lucknow	—	33.6	22.0
Allahabad	—	33.2	22.4	Madurai	—	36.0	24.6
Bengaluru	—	29.0	20.6	Mangaluru	29.3	31.2	23.5
Bhopal	2.0	30.7	20.8	Mumbai	0.5	33.5	25.8
Bhubaneswar	—	34.4	23.9	Mysuru	—	29.6	19.0
Chandigarh	—	32.4	16.7	New Delhi	—	33.1	15.8
Chennai	—	30.6	25.1	Patna	—	33.6	25.6
Coimbatore	—	33.2	23.0	Port Blair	12.0	30.1	25.3
Dehradun	—	30.0	15.3	Puducherry	0.2	31.8	25.0
Gangtok	—	22.7	13.0	Pune	—	30.0	20.3
Goa	0.6	—	24.6	Raipur	—	32.5	25.0
Guwahati	—	31.4	23.2	Ranchi	—	28.7	21.8
Hubballi	—	27.7	20.0	Shillong	—	24.5	11.9
Hyderabad	21.0	29.2	22.2	Shimla	—	24.5	11.0
Imphal	—	29.9	16.3	Srinagar	—	23.2	3.5
Jaipur	—	31.3	19.6	Thiruvananthapuram	00.0	00.0	00.0
Kochi	—	31.0	25.2	Tiruchi	—	33.9	25.0
Kohima	—	32.4	21.2	Vijayawada	—	31.8	24.6
Kolkata	—	33.2	23.2	Visakhapatnam	—	32.4	26.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.22	.26	.22	...100	88	
Bengaluru	...5	..12	.34	35	85	
Chennai	.15	..16	.35	34	77	
Delhi	.40	116	140	.. 383	...421	
Hyderabad	.20	..16	.29	49	80	
Kolkata	...7	..20	.76	...109	...101	
Lucknow	...9	..56	.54	...170	...232	
Mumbai	.21	..17	.13	37	63	
Pune	..—	..40	..—	22	46	
Visakhapatnam	...9	..26	.13	55	54	

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Fatehabad, Haryana recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 329 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Shillong, Meghalaya recorded a healthy AQI score of 15

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Indian Coast Guard rescues 31 fishermen from boat in Arabian Sea

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) on Saturday rescued 31 fishermen from a distressed fishing boat IFB (Indian Fishing Boat) Sant Anton-I which was adrift in the Arabian Sea, approximately 100 nautical miles off New Mangaluru, for 11 days due to a steering gear failure.

Goa-based vessel

The Karnataka unit of the Coast Guard headquartered in Mangaluru launched a Search and Rescue (SAR) operation after receiving information on Friday, about the missing vessel which was based in Goa.

The Indian Coast Guard rescuing 31 fishermen from Sant Anton-I, a distressed Indian fishing boat. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The fishing boat was last reported approximately 100 nautical miles off New Mangaluru, the Coast Guard said in a release on Sunday.

Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) Kasturba Gandhi, which was on routine patrol, was immediately diverted to the last known position of the distressed vessel.

Aerial search

Simultaneously, a Coast Guard Dornier aircraft from Kochi was tasked for aerial search to locate the missing boat, which had drifted significantly due to adverse weather conditions. "Leveraging integrated operations centre and real time weather data, the Coast Guard plotted the probable drift and directed the ship to the updated location. The Dornier aircraft successfully sighted the fishing boat on Saturday, enabling ICGS Kasturba Gandhi to reach the spot and provide critical assistance, including logistics support, damage assessment, and on-site repair of the steering system and ensuring watertight integrity of the IFB," the release said.

After stabilising the vessel, the Coast Guard ship handed over the distress IFB Sant Anton-I to another IFB to be towed safely to Honnavar fishing harbour, in Uttara Kannada district, ensuring the well being of all 31 crew members onboard.

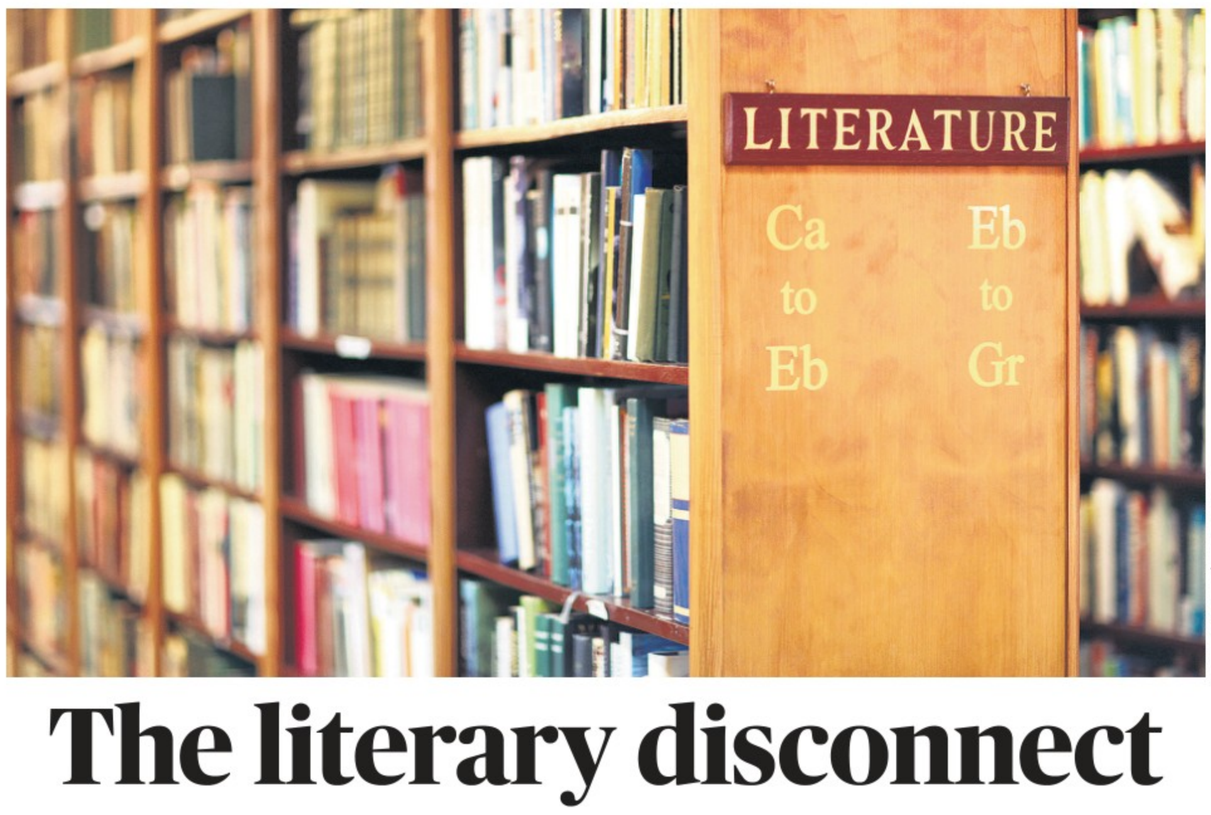
Sea-air rescue

"This swift and coordinated sea-air rescue operation, executed under challenging weather conditions, underscores the Indian Coast Guard's unwavering dedication to safeguarding lives and ensuring safety at sea," the release added.

The literary disconnect

Should Literature in General English courses be subject-specific?

Sanil Raj Johnson



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Imagine you step into an undergraduate General English classroom at a college or university in India, anticipating a new, interesting blend of literature and ideas. Unfortunately, you discover that the syllabus is firmly linked to your major subject. As a Physics student, you read articles related to Science and lab-inspired short fiction. If you are a Commerce major, you will encounter lessons about trade and business. Meanwhile, Humanities students receive content that is more relevant to their field of study. This is the truth, particularly in Kerala's educational institutions under the new Four-Year Undergraduate Programme (FYUGP), where General English is increasingly structured to reflect the student's major specialisation.

Questions arise

On paper, this integration of language learning with subject knowledge seems logical. Yet, it raises a pertinent question: should General English, by definition, be subject-specific? Or should it remain a space for broad-based intellectual exploration, where students from different streams encounter the beauty and complexity of literature that transcends disciplinary boundaries?

Until fairly recently, General English syllabi in Indian universities were truly eclectic. Students would read a Shakespearean and a modern play, analyse classic essays by the likes of Bertrand Russell or George Orwell, delve into an entire novel, and explore poetry across centuries, These classes offered a welcome break from the rigidity of core subjects and provided a common cultural platform where students from varied academic disciplines could debate, interpret, and appreciate texts together. Today's subject-specific approach, even when well-intentioned, risks narrowing students' horizons. It also fails to prepare them for competitive exams and not only restricts imagination but also denies students the rare opportunity to explore literature's intellectual and emotional rewards.

Exceptions

In the meantime, there are exceptions. Delhi University's B.A. programme, for instance, includes a blend of prose, fiction, poetry, and drama in its Part I English syllabus without any tailoring to the student's main discipline. Students – regardless of their major – study short stories by writers such as Katherine Mansfield, poems by Keats or Yeats, essays by Aldous Huxley, and plays by contemporary dramatists. Similarly, Calcutta University's B.A. General English syllabus includes *The Merchant of Venice* by Shakespeare and essays by C. E. M. Joad and G. B. Shaw, along with selected poems and a language component covering comprehension, précis, and essay writing. The inclusion of canonical works ensures that all students, whatever their background, engage with texts that have shaped the intellectual and cultural fabric of the English-speaking world.

The philosophical foundation here is noteworthy. A broad-based General English course is not just about improving grammar or vocabulary. It is about cultivating the imagination, nurturing empathy, enhancing cultural literacy, and supporting the ability to think critically and communicate persuasively. These are not skills confined to the Humanities; they are vital in every field, from Engineering and Business to Medicine. Exposure to varied literary voices also builds emotional intelligence, enabling students to relate to perspectives different from their own.

Less enriching

Aligning general English too closely with subject areas risks turning it into a mere extension of the major discipline. Undoubtedly, it makes the course more utilitarian, but less enriching. A well-designed general English syllabus should, instead, be a meeting ground for disciplines, cultures, and ideas where a future engineer might find joy in reading Wordsworth, or a budding economist might wrestle with the moral dilemmas in Shakespeare.

The Board of Studies in English across the country might do well to revisit the old, literature-rich models and see how they can be adapted for today. Practical communication skills – report writing, presentations, workplace correspondence – can certainly be included but should not overshadow the literary component. The aim should be a balanced course that equips students for professional communication and opens the door to the transformative power of literature. After all, literature in a general English course is not merely about mastering language; it is about expanding the mind, deepening the heart, and broadening the world within.

The writer is Dean of Student Affairs and Professor of English, Sahrdaya College of Advanced Studies (Autonomous), Thrissur, Kerala.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Mahindra EmpowerHer Scholarship
An initiative of Mahindra & Mahindra Limited.
Eligibility: Girls who are in school (Classes 9-12) or college (UG/ PG, general disciplines) and have scored at least 50% in the previous academic year and have an annual family income not exceeding ₹400,000.
Rewards: ₹5,500
Application: Online
Deadline: November 15
www.b4s.in/edge/MNM2

University of Exeter Postgraduate Taught Scholarship for India
An initiative from the University of Exeter
Eligibility: Indian citizens or passport-holders classified as international students for fee purposes who hold an offer for a specified campus-based Master's programme at the Faculty of Environment in January 2026.
Rewards: £5,000
Application: Online
Deadline: December 1
www.b4s.in/edge/UEPI1

Education Future International Scholarship
Offered by the Education Future organisation.
Eligibility: Indian nationals with a valid passport pursuing UG or PG in a recognised institution overseas who have secured minimum 60% in Class 10 and 12, and able to prove absence of any means for education funding.
Rewards: Between ₹200,000 and ₹10,00,000
Application: Online
Deadline: Round the year
www.b4s.in/edge/EFIS5

Courtesy: buddy4study.com

Word play

To celebrate World Dictionary Day (October 16), Oxford University Press (OUP) India has launched new editions of its bilingual and trilingual dictionary portfolio in mini and compact formats, covering languages such as Bengali, Gujarati, Malayalam, Kannada, and Marathi.

These offer NEP-aligned resources that bridge English and Indian languages. By offering explanations in Indian languages alongside English, these resources help learners understand, retain, and apply new knowledge more effectively.

Each offers clear, simple meanings, bilingual pronunciation guides, and key grammar notes.

They ensure that learners not only know the words but use them with confidence.

Clarity and confusion

Both the NDA and Mahagatbandhan are dealing with internal divisions

The principal rival fronts in Bihar have finally announced incumbent Nitish Kumar and Tejashwi Yadav as their respective chief ministerial candidates after weeks of speculation and haggling. The National Democratic Alliance (NDA), around the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-Janata Dal (United) axis, and the Mahagatbandhan, or Grand Alliance, around the Indian National Congress-Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) axis, are caught in their internal games of one-upmanship. The delay in the announcements by both fronts suggests that their chief ministerial candidates are more a result of compulsions than any convergence of minds. The BJP had clearly indicated in recent weeks that the choice of Chief Minister would remain open before it made a turnaround to endorse Mr. Kumar for yet another term. The BJP is a bigger party in the outgoing Assembly, though Mr. Kumar is the Chief Minister. The saffron party sees an opportunity now to claim the top post, given the evident slowing down of Mr. Kumar, who is 74. The Lok Janshakti Party (LJP), another NDA constituent, is also hostile to Mr. Kumar. As it turned out, the BJP concluded that growing public perception that Mr. Kumar may get replaced, was damaging the NDA's prospects. Though he is aging and faltering, Mr. Kumar continues to command enough of a following in Bihar for the BJP to fall in line behind him, at least until the election is over.

Something comparable has happened between the Congress and the RJD. The Congress was reluctant to endorse Mr. Yadav initially, but then gauged that any further confusion on the leadership question could undermine the alliance, which has other challenges too. While Mr. Yadav has the support of a notable and articulate segment of the population, he is also resented with equal ferocity by the sections of the rest. By declaring Mr. Yadav as the chief ministerial candidate, the Grand Alliance is trying to first consolidate its Yadav base before seeking to expand it. The chief ministerial faces of the NDA and the Grand Alliance pull a lot of weight but also face a crisis of legitimacy and public scepticism for various reasons. Neither front is in a position to push for new possibilities in leadership and vision, and in such a situation, Bihar's voters might consider other options if available. Prashant Kishor's Jan Suraaj Party is trying to place itself as a platform for those who are tired of Mr. Kumar and Mr. Yadav. It is still a long shot for Mr. Kishor, but the confusion and delay before the tentative clarity suggest that all is not well in the other two alliances.

Hands-off approach

Scientists are the best judges of excellence in science

The government has announced a list of 24 individual scientists and a team as recipients of the second edition of the Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar (RVP), awards, conferred by the Centre for scientific achievement. As in 2024, this year too has four broad categories: the Vigyan Ratna, Vigyan Shri, Vigyan Yuva-Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar award and Vigyan team award. The Vigyan Ratna and Vigyan Shri are for scientists who have made distinguished contributions over their lifetime, and recent distinguished contributions respectively. The Yuva is for individuals under 45 and the final one for a team endeavour in technology development.

In theory, the total number of awards, under all categories, is capped at 56; though this year, there are fewer than the 33 awarded last year. The award announcement has been delayed by several months, but this could indicate greater scrutiny of potential awardees. It is important to note that unlike earlier editions of national science awards, for instance the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar (SSB) awards, there is no cash component given for the RVP, to align with the spirit of the Padma awards. But scrutiny is a double-edged sword. Last year, it emerged that some scientists were told about being recipients, only to be informed later that their names had been dropped. Several prominent scientists across India wrote to the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA), demanding transparency in the process of award selection. There were concerns that factors other than scientific merit – for instance, criticism of government policy and political ideology – may have played a role. The PSA has not categorically responded to these demands except to point out that the selection committee, called the Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar Committee (chaired by the PSA and which includes Secretaries of Ministries and members of scientific academies), "recommended" awardees to the Minister of Science and Technology. It is not explicit whether the Minister can overturn a recommendation made by the committee. The RVP awards were instituted after the Ministry of Home Affairs and heads of science departments concluded in 2022 that there were too many awards being given out by individual scientific departments and, hence, necessary to trim them and raise their 'stature' to national awards. While awards such as the SSB awards too were finalised in consultation with the Science Minister, the centralisation and the explicit attempt to make the RVP 'Padma-like', means that they appear far more politicised than they ought to be. If the aim of the RVP is to increase 'stature', the government must be seen to have an explicitly hands-off approach and let scientists judge the excellence of their peers.

The contours of constitutional morality

Justice N. Anand Venkatesh

is Judge, Madras High Court

The relationship between morality and the law has fascinated many minds over the ages. Some have regarded the enforcement of morals as the function of law. The famous Hart-Devlin debate in the 1960s saw an unparalleled exposition by two fine legal minds on the benefits and pitfalls of fusing morality into the veins of the law. The 1960s also saw the House of Lords declaring, in *Shaw vs DPP* (1962 AC 220), that there existed a residual power to enforce the "supreme and fundamental purpose of the law", *viz.*, "to conserve not only the safety and order but also the moral welfare of the State".

The Supreme Court of India recognised the relationship in *P. Rathinam vs Union of India* (1994) 3 SCC 394, when it quoted with approval the observations of Justice Frankfurter in *Solesbee vs Balkcom* (94 L Ed 604: 339 US 9 (1949)) that the law "embodies a system of rights based on moral principles ... which comports with the deepest notions of what is fair and right and just". In ancient times there was no particular distinction between law and morals. There was the concept of dharma which embraced concepts of law and morality. The *Tirukkural*, for instance, has much emphasis on *the* virtue, *Aram*.

This complex relationship entails that, sometimes, law leads morality (abolishing untouchability before societal acceptance which is yet to happen) or law follows it (slow recognition of gender equality). The challenge is to ensure that laws remain just and representative of fundamental ethical imperatives – not merely majoritarian opinions or transient popular sentiments.

A resurgence of the concept

In recent times, there has been a resurgence of the concept of morality in the constitutional scheme of things, under an umbrella term 'constitutional morality'. What is this term ? How does it empower courts to look at constitutional questions? These are the two key issues.

The term itself is not of recent vintage. In his book, *History of Greece* (1846), historian George Grote wrote that the Greeks found it necessary to protect their Constitution by kindling "a passionate attachment" which he termed "constitutional morality". Grote observes: "A paramount reverence for the forms of the constitution, enforcing obedience to the authorities acting under and within those forms, yet combined with the habit of open speech, of action subject only to definite legal control, and unrestrained censure of those very authorities as to all their public acts, combined too with a perfect confidence in the bosom of every citizen, amidst the bitterness of party contest, that the forms of the constitution will be not less sacred in the eyes of his opponents than in his own."

In the course of his fiery debates in the Constituent Assembly, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar invoked this passage to underscore the need for

There needs to be a ceaseless cultivation of constitutional morality among citizens, lawmakers and judges

an elaborate and detailed administrative mechanism in the text of the Constitution. He added that "Constitutional morality is not a natural sentiment. It has to be cultivated. We must realise that our people have yet to learn it. Democracy in India is only a top-dressing on an Indian soil, which is essentially undemocratic."

Drawing a distinction

It is now discernible that constitutional morality may be termed as rules of constitutional propriety/conduct amongst constitutional functionaries. However, the question is whether breach of such 'rules' could give rise to action in courts. Professor Dicey observed that "constitutional law" consisted of two elements: the first is "the law of the constitution", which is a body of undoubted law relied upon and enforced by the Courts. The second is a set of rules consisting of conventions, understandings, habits or practices which regulate the conduct of several members of the state, but which are not enforced by the courts, which he termed as "conventions of the constitution" or "constitutional morality".

Thus, Prof. Dicey draws a clear distinction between constitutional morality and the law, in the positivist sense of the term. According to him, a breach of constitutional morality or the conventions of the constitution are not actionable in courts. Yet, they derive their binding force from the fact that a breach of constitutional morality or a constitutional convention would almost immediately bring the offender into conflict with the courts and the law of the land. In the S.P. Gupta case, Justice Venkataramiah pointed out: "A convention is a rule of constitutional practice which is neither enacted by Parliament as a formal legislation nor enforced by courts, yet its violation is considered to be a serious breach of constitutional morality leading to grave political consequences to those who have indulged in such violations".

In *Indian Young Lawyers Association vs The State of Kerala* (2018, Sabarimala case), (then) Chief Justice of India (CJI) Dipak Misra held that the expression "public morality" occurring in Article 25 ought to be understood as being synonymous with constitutional morality. This position has since been doubted, and the matter has now been referred to a nine-judge Bench.

The expression was once again considered in *Manoj Narula vs Union of India*. In *Narula*, the Supreme Court was invited to read into Article 75 of the Constitution a disqualification against Members of the Legislative Assembly/Members of Parliament who were facing charges for heinous or serious offences.

The CJI observed: "The principle of constitutional morality basically means to bow down to the norms of the Constitution and not to act in a manner which would become violative of the rule of law or reflectible of action in an arbitrary manner."

The passage resembles Grote's appeal for a "paramount reverence to the forms of the Constitution". However, the Court ultimately held that it was not possible to re-write Article 75 by prescribing a disqualification which was plainly not there. It went no further than to say that it could "legitimately expect" that the Prime Minister would not choose a person accused of heinous offences as a Minister in his Cabinet, and concluded: "This is what the Constitution suggests and that is the constitutional expectation from the Prime Minister. Rest has to be left to the wisdom of the Prime Minister. We say nothing more, nothing less."

In *State (NCT of Delhi) vs Union of India*, the Court went further and held that constitutional morality did not mean mere allegiance to the substantive provisions and principles of the Constitution. The Court identified liberal values and consensual decision making amongst state agencies as facets of this concept. To this were added responsibilities and duties that it imposed on those who held constitutional offices. In *Justice K.S. Puttaswamy (Retd.) vs Union Of India*, the Court once again was of the opinion that the requirement of constitutional morality required that the government not to act in a manner that violated the rule of law. By the same token, it was emphasised that the requirement of constitutional morality required the state from acting in a manner that violated the orders of the Court.

These decisions show that constitutional morality encapsulated morally acceptable standards of conduct by constitutional actors in the constitutional sphere of things. A breach of such standards may not, *per se*, be actionable in law courts. A breach of constitutional morality could breach a constitutional convention, triggering the violation of the constitutional principle of rule of law. It must be remembered that courts are not the sole arenas where the breach of constitutional norms can be remedied.

Such breaches may have consequences elsewhere, as, for instance, being held accountable on the floor of Parliament or at the hands of the electorate. The remedy in an appropriate case is, therefore, always contextual.

A vital role to play

The road forward for India lies in continually cultivating constitutional morality among citizens, lawmakers, and judges alike. It is the living ethos that will transform constitutional guarantees into tangible justice, fostering inclusion, protecting minorities, and ensuring equality in a rapidly changing society. As B.R. Ambedkar poignantly advised, constitutional morality is not inherited but must be nurtured and embraced. Its vitality is the difference between a constitution that is merely a document and one that is a vibrant, equitable reality for all Indians. It is only then that democracy can be a vital ingredient and not a mere top dressing on Indian soil.

Winding up the clock of India-Nepal economic ties

Manjeev Singh Puri

is India's former Ambassador to Nepal

Atul K. Thakur

is a policy professional, columnist and writer, with a special focus on South Asia

On October 1, 2025, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Sanjay Malhotra, in the context of internationalising the Indian rupee (INR), announced three measures that have the potential of adding serious positivity in India-Nepal ties.

The first is to allow authorised dealer (AD) banks to lend the INR to non-residents from Nepal, Bhutan and Sri Lanka for cross-border transactions. The second is that the RBI is now going to allow Special Rupee Vostro Accounts, which are accounts of foreign banks with Indian banks in INR, for investment in corporate bonds and commercial papers. This is in addition to the already permitted investments in central government securities. And, the third is to establish a transparent reference rate for currencies of India's major trading partners to facilitate INR-based transactions.

For years, India and Nepal have kept the INR to Nepalese rupee (NPR) exchange pegged at 1.6. There are demands in certain quarters for institutional credit, which are not unfounded as it is this peg that has shielded the NPR from serious depreciation against hard currencies. But it is also worth noting that what is working should not be attempted to be fixed.

The RBI allowing ADs to lend INRs to Nepal should greatly help Nepal in its bilateral trade with India. This is because the Nepalese industry has a lot to gain in overcoming the chronic challenges that it faces for working capital and scalability in the domestic market and in trade with India. Of course, the lending policies of Indian banks and their interest rates would need to be competitive for Nepalese interest.

The hurdles in Nepal

Nepal saw a partial recovery from the COVID-19 induced lockdown based on high remittances but that did not sustain, and its industrial performances continued to be in a tailspin. A key reason was the lack of confidence of Nepalese banks to lend to businesses. Stringent lending considerations by Nepalese banks (mostly controlled by Nepal's big industrial houses) made it even more difficult for small businesses to get the required working capital to sustain and survive. The lack of confidence even made big businesses, with easy access to institutional credit, jittery, with obstacles having crept into their supply chains linked to domestic ancillaries, all of which was compounded by low domestic demand.

The Reserve Bank of India's moves, especially on Indian rupee lending, can reshape ties

These hurdles created structural flaws, leading to economic woes for its population; high unemployment was certainly a big contributing factor in the latest political developments in Nepal.

India's lending outreach should give traction to Nepalese businesses as trade with India should now be devoid of institutional credit hassles. With the United States having announced a tariff of only 10% for Nepal, INR-financed trade with India can lead its imports for value addition in Nepal, build up a global capacity for ancillaries and even explore joint ventures with India.

Trade with India

Indian firms continue to be among the largest investors in Nepal, accounting for 33% of the total foreign direct investment (FDI) stock in Nepal, worth nearly $670 million. Nepal is India's 17th largest export destination, up from 28 in 2014. India constitutes 65% of Nepalese international trade, including $8 billion of exports from India to Nepal and just under $1 billion exports from Nepal to India. India is Nepal's largest export destination, receiving an overwhelming 67% of its total exports consisting of edible oil, coffee, tea and jute.

The uneven, yet interdependent, bilateral trade fundamentals demand that trade and economic cooperation between India and Nepal should see a further spurt, and for the Nepalese economy, make it less vulnerable and resilient in the topsy-turvy world of today.

Possible multiplier effects

In Nepal, there would be many who would see the RBI moves as an effort to strengthen the INR. But that notwithstanding, Nepal would certainly benefit in lowering the role of the dollar and making INR as preferred currency for trade with India, by far its largest trading partner. It will also shield the economy from the dollar's exchange rate fluctuations. Hard currency availability issues should also ease, thereby reducing pressure on forex and the Current Account Deficit (CAD), which could lead to other advantages and have positive multiplier effects. Indeed, these currency openings should lead to wider consultations between India and Nepal on other crucial economic matters such as Nepal's framework of sovereign guarantees (sector/project wise), Standby Letters of Credit and country risk rating.

Of course, a decoding of the RBI announcements by the Nepal Rastra Bank (NRB) would be useful and important and they may have to put in place several required instrumentalities at their end to take advantage of the Indian move and to protect their economic and money interests. Moreover, the process compliance as per RBI's guidelines will not be something to be skipped by any potential borrowers beyond borders. The RBI has a strong reputation for keeping prudence ahead, and the NRB's reciprocation will herald a new era for rebooting India-Nepal economic ties. India and Nepal should come closer to a level playing field.

The views expressed are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

LIC and business house

It is common knowledge that the business empire in question expanded exponentially after 2014, with the group making its presence felt in ports, airports, power and infrastructure — sectors regulated by the government. There are various red flags in the investment which need to be probed (Front page, October 26). Was the Life Insurance Corporation of India coerced into investing in something that was contrary to its usual investment policy?

John Deepak,
Ollur, Thrissur, Kerala

Bus accident

The gruesome bus accident near Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh, has highlighted how safety is relegated to the background. With luxury bus travel becoming popular in India, there is a need to focus on passenger safety. Any issue will now prove calamitous for the occupants. Apart from the operators, it is government officials who look away from transgressions after the vehicles are rolled out of workshops.

V. Johan Dhanakumar,
Chennai

Rail passenger service

I would like to draw the attention of the railway authorities to an issue the disabled in India face — the non-availability of wheelchair facilities at a number of railway stations. I am a senior citizen and physically disabled, and I have faced many a hurdle at numerous stations for lack of wheelchair assistance. This is either when one has to reach the allotted coach or to go to platforms, a washroom or ticket counters. The same facility is provided at airports, and with trained staff. I would request the Railway Ministry to look into the issue and ensure wheelchair assistance with a trained attendant at all railway stations. This will be of help to the elderly, the disabled and sick people, and stand out as a passenger-friendly policy.

Dr. K. Sankaranarayana,
Hyderabad

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

The perils of engaging with the Taliban

Najeeb Jung

Retired civil servant, former Vice Chancellor of Jamia Millia Islamia, and former Lieutenant Governor, Delhi

The recent visit of Amir Khan Muttaqi, the acting Foreign Minister of Taliban-ruled Afghanistan, to India marks a significant shift in New Delhi's diplomatic posture towards Kabul. Mr. Muttaqi's meetings, press interactions, and his visit to Darul Uloom Deoband, a historic and influential seminary, were laden with symbolism and strategic intent. While Mr. Mutaqqi projected moderation (not withstanding his first press conference where women journalists were not invited), the deeper subtext suggests an evolving real politic in which India weighs its security concerns, regional influence, and economic interest against its old principled unease with the Taliban.

History of the Taliban

When triumphant Taliban fighters entered Kabul in August 2021, it did not just signify the fall of a government, but the resurrection of an ideology of a deeply intolerant version of Islam.

Young men born in refugee camps studied and imbibed Wahhabi teachings at madrasas in southern Pakistan. Many were orphans of the Soviet war. Led by an almost mythical figure, Mullah Omar, they wished to impose the strictest interpretation of Islamic laws. With the help of the Inter Services Intelligence (ISI) of Pakistan, they seized Kabul in 1996. They banned girls' education and barred women from jobs. They forced men to wear long beards; persecuted ethnic religious minorities, particularly the Hazaras, and other Shias; and destroyed all vestiges of cultural heritage, including the Bamiyam Buddhas. Their association with al-Qaeda and its leader, Osama bin Laden, placed them squarely as the face of global terror. The major resistance to them came from Ahmad Shah Massoud, who was murdered by Osama's henchmen, and from Abdul Rashid Dostum, who lives in exile in Turkey.

But as their regime collapsed and the Northern Alliance moved in, there was hope. Women moved freely, the long beards were gone, and the economy improved through help from member countries of the Northern Alliance and assistance from multilateral institutions. The Taliban melted away, but found shelter in Pakistan where they regrouped, rebuilt, and waited. For the ISI, they were a strategic asset.

This background was the reason why India downgraded its diplomatic relations with Kabul. The Taliban re-emerged in 2021, projecting a more moderate face. But what has really changed? Gender discrimination continues and any resistance is brutally crushed. Public floggings are back.

Historically, India has always supported democratic governments in Kabul. After the return of the Northern Alliance in 2002, India spent over $3 billion on infrastructure, education, and capacity building. Today, it has agreed to open its Embassy, provide humanitarian aid, and is attending regional dialogues. This stems from concerns over China's growing footprint in Afghanistan. India also wants to take advantage over Pakistan's weakening influence over the Taliban. It also wishes to protect its investments and ensure that Afghanistan does not become a base for anti-India terrorist activity.

Befriending Afghanistan

However, while befriending Afghanistan, the Indian government would be well aware of the perils in this path. In 1978, India established warm ties with Zia ul Haq's regime and Zia led Pakistan into a dark abyss. It moved into an era when all norms of democracy were set aside; Prime Ministers were forced into exile, jailed, or assassinated; and the stranglehold of the Army and Wahhabi mullahs strengthened. Field Marshal Asim Munir embodies the lasting impact of Gen. Zia's influence. The Taliban too present similar risks. Despite Afghanistan's disturbed relations with Pakistan, the ISI's role in the Taliban is old. If that is re-ignited, the Taliban may allow groups such as the Jaish-e-Mohammad or the Lashkar-e- Taiba to operate from Afghanistan. India's own image as a liberal democracy would also be adversely impacted when it supports an oppressive regime, for the Taliban is just not a political actor, but a militant movement rooted in a theocratic supremist ideology.

Mr. Mutaqqi's visit to Deoband has been played out in a big way and for the wrong reasons. While he did receive a massive reception at the Darul Uloom, the impression being given is that Indian Muslims support the Taliban or their ideology. This is far from the truth. While such ideologies can find resonance among unemployed youths or those who suffer from a belief that they are being persecuted, the overall reaction of Indian Muslims towards the Taliban is of abhorrence. But perceptions matter. The reception that Mr. Mutaqqi received at the Darul Uloom has been so forcefully played out by sections of the media that it paints an entire community as favouring this form of Wahhabi Islam. Also, the fact that this theory would find favour with a section of Hindus once again highlights the fragility of Hindu-Muslim relations in India. Surely, the Government of India is aware of the dangers of this and must act to negate it.

India's engagement with the Taliban is not just a foreign policy manoeuvre; it is a test of how far the nation is willing to stretch the boundaries of its strategic pragmatism. The immediate gains may lie in intelligence access and regional influence but there can be deeper costs. The challenge is not only to play the game of power politics, but to do so without losing the moral clarity that has long distinguished India's international posture, and to ensure that it does not jeopardise inter-community ties in India.

The immediate gains may lie in intelligence access and regional influence but there can be deeper costs

A setback to Odisha's secular ethos

The latest violence in Cuttack shows the government in poor light

STATE OF PLAY

Shaikh Mujibur Rehman

During the Durga Puja immersion procession in early October, a communal clash between Hindus and Muslims broke out in the ancient city of Cuttack, Odisha. According to reports, around 40 shops were burnt down in Dargah Bazar, a predominantly Muslim locality, leading the administration to impose a curfew for several days and arrest more than a dozen people.

This marks the second instance of communal unrest under the incumbent BJP government, which came to power in 2024 after dislodging the BJD. The first communal clash under the new regime occurred in Bhadrak in September 2024.

The last time Cuttack saw such violence was in the aftermath of the Babri Masjid demolition in 1992, under the Biju Patnaik government. The latest incident bears an eerie resemblance to the pattern of riots unfolding in other parts of India, particularly in Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra. Typically, the sequence begins with a religious procession passing through Muslim neighborhoods, followed by incidents of stone-throwing that escalate into full-blown communal violence.

Under Naveen Patnaik's rule (2000-2024), there were episodes of communal unrest in Odisha – the anti-Christian violence in Kandhamal in 2008 (when Mr. Patnaik headed a coalition government with the BJP as a partner) and the violence in Bhadrak, another Muslim-dominated area, in 2017.

The Justice Naidu Commission, set up to investigate the

Kandhamal violence, submitted its report to Mr. Patnaik in 2015, but this is yet to be tabled in the Odisha Assembly. But despite these episodes, Odisha has generally been regarded as a relatively peaceful State.

Odisha's Muslim population is demographically insignificant – just over 2% – and is largely concentrated in clusters in cities such as Cuttack, Bhadrak, and Kendrapada. This may seem surprising given that Afghan rule reached Odisha as early as 1568; however, Mughal influence remained limited. Some historians argue that this historical factor partly explains the small Muslim population. Odisha's colonial history was dominated instead by the Marathas, who established their rule in 1751. Fakir Mohan Senapati, the father of modern Odia literature, noted in his autobiography that Maratha rule was far more oppressive than that of the British.

Despite their small numbers, Muslims in Odisha have produced several leaders known for their secular politics. Sofia Firdous, the first Muslim woman elected to the Odisha Legislative Assembly in 2024, represents the Barabati constituency in Cuttack. She played an active role in restoring peace after the recent violence. The daughter of former Congress MLA Mohammad Moquim, she had been visiting Durga Puja pandals just hours before the clashes broke out. In earlier decades, Mustafiz Ahmad, another Muslim leader from Cuttack, served as a minister. Shaikh Matlub Ali, from the outskirts of Cuttack, served multiple cabinets and even built a Hindu temple in Khandol in Mahanga constituency. Habibulla Khan was elected to the Odisha Assembly nine times. Notably, during Mr. Patnaik's 24-year tenure, the BJD never had a single Muslim MLA or Cabinet minister. The current BJP government, too, does not have any Muslim representation in the Assembly.

Chief Minister Mohan Charan attributed the latest incident to vested interests attempting to tarnish Odisha's peaceful image. This explanation stands in contrast to the often-vitriolic rhetoric seen in States such as U.P. and Maharashtra, where bulldozer justice has become symbolic of state response. Odisha has not yet seen such an administrative culture, which places the BJP government in the State on a somewhat different footing. Whether this distinction will endure remains uncertain, especially amid deepening social polarisation.

On the governance front, the Majhi administration has faced several challenges, ranging from women's safety issues, to corruption allegations in the police recruitment process, to growing internal factionalism within the ruling party. Together, these factors make governance increasingly difficult. Whatever the government's political credibility, it is undeniable that Odisha's secular ethos has suffered a setback owing to the violence in Cuttack.

Shaikh Mujibur Rehman is the author of 'Shikwa-e- Hind: The Political Future of Indian Muslims (2024)'. Views are personal

Most people extradited to India are economic offenders: data

More than a third (35%) of those extradited to India since 2002 were accused of financial fraud, cheating, and forgery

DATA POINT

Sambavi Parthasarathy

A Belgian court's ruling in the extradition proceedings concerning Mehul Choksi, a prime accused in the Punjab National Bank scam, is an important development in India's efforts to bring him back to face trial. Mr. Choksi, who had fled India in 2018, has been the target of attempts by authorities to get him extradited since.

Mr. Choksi is detained in Belgium on India's request. On Wednesday, a Belgium court concluded that the documents provided by him were insufficient to demonstrate a risk of ill-treatment upon extradition to India. It also rejected his plea of possible mistreatment in Indian prisons, observing that India has given multiple assurances to Belgium regarding his safety and prison arrangements.

If the extradition is successful, Mr. Choksi will join a long list of economic offenders who account for more than a third of all those extradited to India from all over the world over two decades.

The case involving Mr. Choksi is not the only instance where India seems to be gaining an edge this year. Last month, a delegation from the U.K.'s Crown Prosecution Service visited Tihar jail to assess prison conditions. This was aimed at facilitating the extradition of persons accused of economic crimes from the U.K. to India, such as Vijay Mallya and Nirav Modi.

Extradition requests are initiated for cases under investigation, under trial, or for convicted criminals. India has signed extradition treaties with 48 countries/territories and has extradition arrangements with 12 countries.

Information obtained by *The Hindu* using the Right to Information shows that India has been stepping up efforts to secure the extradition of fugitives from foreign countries to face trial here. In the last five years, India has made 133 extradition requests. In 2024 alone, it made 39 requests – the highest in the 2020-2024 period **(Chart 1)**.

RTI data also reveal that India received 79 requests from foreign countries seeking the extradition of fugitives, between 2020 and 2024 **(Chart 2)**.

An analysis of persons extradited or deported by foreign governments to India since 2002 shows that 35% of them were sent back for economic offences such as financial fraud, cheating, and forgery. Christian Michel James was extradited from the UAE for economic offences in the AgustaWestland helicopter deal bribery case.

People accused of participating in terrorist activities, for offences such as terror financing, and for 'waging war against India' accounted for 27.5% of all cases. This year, Tahawwur Rana, accused of being a key conspirator in the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks, was extradited from the U.S to India.

Those accused of crimes such as murder or attempt to murder accounted for 21.3% of all extraditions. Other offences listed by the External Affairs Ministry include drugs and sexual offences.

Chart 3 shows the offence-wise split of people extradited to India in the 2002-2018 and the 2024-25 periods.

A country-wise analysis shows that India has secured the extradition of people from at least 26 countries in the 2002-2018 and the 2024-25 periods. The UAE and the U.S. accounted for 46% of all such cases together, with at least 25 and 12 fugitives extradited from these countries in the periods, respectively **(Chart 4)**.

These conclusions are based on data sourced through RTI requests for the 2020-2024 period and supplemented by data from Parliament Q&A for the 2002-2018 period. Data for particular offences and source countries could not be ascertained for the 2019-2023 period.

From every nook and corner

Data for the charts were sourced through RTI requests for the 2020-2024 period and Parliament Q and A for the 2002-2018 period

Chart 1: Extradition requests made by India

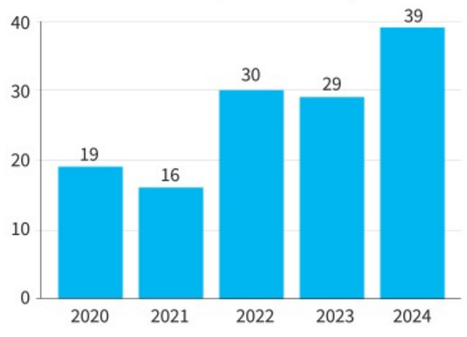
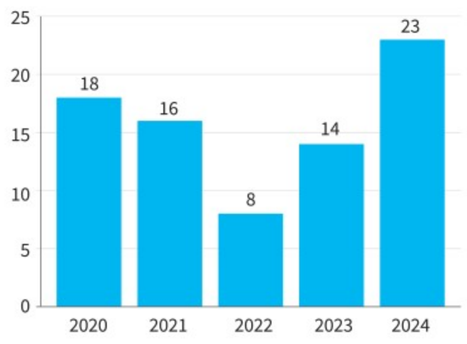


Chart 2: Extradition requests received by India



Mehul Choksi attending a court hearing in Dominica in 2021. AP

Chart 3: Offence-wise split of people extradited to India in the 2002-2018 and the 2024-2025 periods. Figures in %

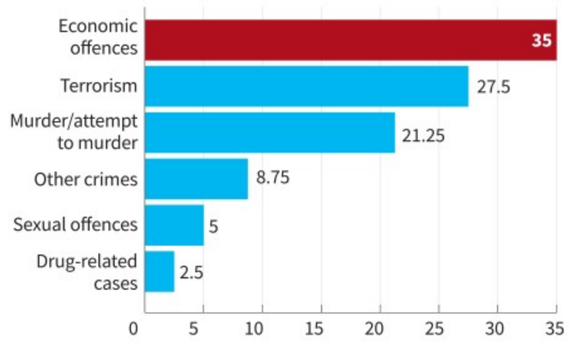
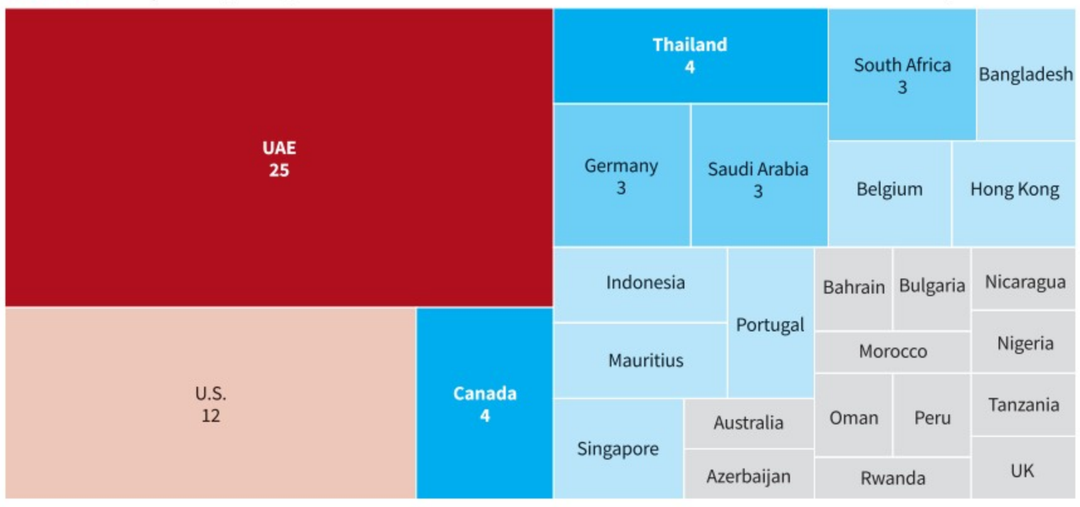


Chart 4: Country-wise split of persons extradited to India between the 2002-2018 and the 2024-2025 periods



FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO OCTOBER 27, 1975

Oil struck in Arunachal Pradesh

Shillong, Oct. 26: Oil has been struck in the well at Kharsangh in Arunachal Pradesh, further strengthening the country's hope of achieving early self-sufficiency in oil.

Good deposits of oil have been discovered at a depth of about 2,850 metres in the well being drilled by the Oil India Limited, a joint enterprise of the Government of India and the Burmah Oil Company.

The well could yield about 1,500 barrels of oil per day according to preliminary tests and indications. Detailed production tests of the well to establish its full potential commercial viability are expected to be completed by the middle of next month.

The Arunachal Government authorities are jubilant over the oil find at Kharsangh as it would shortly become the third oil producing State in the country. At present, indigenous onshore production of crude oil is made only in Assam and Gujarat.

Oil production from Kharsangh would boost the economic development of Arunachal, the youngest State of the country. The State Government would get royalty on the production of crude at a rate to be fixed by the Central Government.

The latest oil strike in Arunachal would help Oil India, to increase Rs current rate of annual production of crude from 3.05 to over 3.1 million tonnes. This would also substantially increase the company's recoverable reserves of oil by several million tonnes more than the earlier estimates of 40 million tonnes.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO OCTOBER 27, 1925

The Khyber Railway

Simla, Oct. 26: The opening of the Khyber Railway, on the 2nd November, will be a very ceremonious affair, and the programme has just been issued.

Guests who arrive at Jamrud, by train or car, are requested to be in their seats by 9-30 a.m.

The Commander-in-Chief and the guests from the Government House Peshawar, will arrive at 9-30, and the Hon-ble Sir Charles Innes, Member for Railways, arrives accompanied by the Chief Commissioner, at 10 o'clock and will be received by Sir Clement Hindley, the Chief Commissioner of Railways.

From Page One

'India-ASEAN relations making steady progress'

"Among the issues and matters discussed were efforts to finalise the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA) and the implementation of the ASEAN-India Plan of Action 2026-2030 to strengthen cooperation in trade, investment, education, food security and technological development," Mr. Ibrahim said.

He appreciated close ties between India and the ASEAN region in the fields of education, economy, and culture. Mr. Modi said the AITIGA could "unleash the full economic potential" of India-ASEAN relationship.

Mr. Modi said India and the ASEAN member-states in Southeast Asia were "companions in the Global South", and promised that India would work with the ASEAN countries to advance digital inclusion, food security, and resilient supply chains "amid global challenges".

The Prime Minister referred to India's active participation in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief activities in the ASEAN region, and said that to deepen maritime relation between the two sides, 2026 would be declared "ASEAN-India Year of Maritime Cooperation".

Mr. Modi mentioned the danger posed by terrorism and reminded the need for unity in fighting terror. "At the same time, we are steadily advancing our cooperation in education, tourism, science and technology, health, green energy, and cybersecurity," he said, highlighting the "shared cultural heritage" and "people-to-people" ties between India and the ASEAN member-states.

While addressing the heads of governments of the ASEAN region, Mr. Modi conveyed his condolences to the Royal Family and the people of Thailand on the passing of the Queen Mother.

The ASEAN summit began on Sunday with the arrival of heads of the member-countries as well as President Donald Trump of the United States.

A.P. braces for cyclone as IMD issues high alert

cyclone alert has been issued for Andhra Pradesh, Yanam and adjoining South Odisha coasts so that officials could begin taking precautionary measures.

Red alert, which indicates a possibility of extremely heavy rainfall, has been sounded for seven districts of Andhra Pradesh – SPSR Nellore, Prakasam, Bapatla, Krishna, West Godavari, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Konaseema and Kakinada.

The IMD has warned that the sea condition may be 'very rough' along and off the Andhra Pradesh and Yanam coasts on Monday. It would further worsen, becoming 'very rough' to 'high' on Tuesday.

Montha is the third severe cyclonic storm after Asani in 2022 and Michaung in 2023 to cross the Andhra Pradesh coast.

During a teleconference with senior officials, Mr. Naidu reviewed the preparedness of all the departments. He instructed the officials to ensure there was no disruption to power supply, telecom connectivity, or drinking water systems.

Mr. Naidu urged officials of all departments to ensure there was no loss of life or property. "Alerts should be sent through SMS, social media, IVRS [Interactive Voice Response] calls, and WhatsApp. Ensure that information from the village level reaches the State control room in real time," the Chief Minister said.

Mr. Naidu said State and national disaster response teams have already been deployed in the coastal districts, and that predictive models and real-time data were being used for accurate analysis.

On Tuesday, light to moderate rain is likely to occur at a few places over north Tamil Nadu, at isolated places over south Tamil Nadu and over Puducherry and Karaikal area with thunderstorm and lightning at one or two places.

Cricketers must inform before going out: Minister

Mehul Malpani
BHOPAL

Cricketers should inform the local administration or their team security officials when stepping out, Madhya Pradesh Minister Kailash Vijayvargiya has said, days after two Australian women players were allegedly stalked and molested in Indore.

"Players should keep the local administration or their security [officials] informed when they are going out. There is a huge craze for cricket players [in India], like it is for football players in England. Players sometimes don't realise their fame but they are very popular. They should also be careful," Mr. Vijayvargiya, also the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MLA for Indore, told presspersons.

"This incident is lesson for both us and the players," he said.

Accused in custody

Meanwhile, a court in Indore on Sunday sent the accused, Aqueel Khan, 29, to judicial custody for 14 days.

Khan is accused of stalking and molesting by "touching inappropriately" two members of Australia's women's cricket team, which was in Indore for the ongoing 13th edition of the Women's World Cup.

Operation Sindoor has filled every Indian with pride: PM

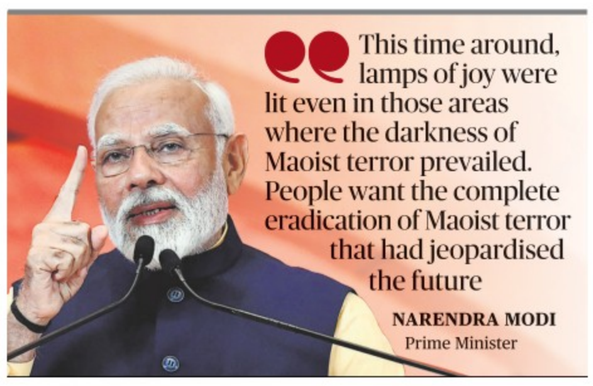
Chhath Puja reflects the deep unity between culture, nature and society, says Modi in *Mann Ki Baat* episode; the GST rate cuts have led to a surge in the purchase of indigenous goods, he adds

Devesh Pandey
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said Chhath Puja, deeply rooted in the traditions of Bihar, Jharkhand, and Purvanchal, reflected the deep unity between culture, nature, and society. The recent national achievements such as Operation Sindoor had made this year's festivals even more vibrant, he said.

In the 127th episode of his monthly radio address *Mann Ki Baat*, the Prime Minister said the dedication and devotion of women observing Chhath fasting was inspiring. "Every section of society comes together at Chhath ghats... I bow to Chhathi Maiya," he said.

Mr. Modi said the country's recent accomplishments had infused the festivities with renewed energy. "Indeed, Operation Sindoor has filled every Indian with pride. This time around, lamps of joy were lit even in those areas where the darkness of Maoist terror once prevailed. People want the complete eradication of the Maoist terror that had jeopardised the future of their children," he said.


This time around, lamps of joy were lit even in those areas where the darkness of Maoist terror prevailed. People want the complete eradication of Maoist terror that had jeopardised the future
NARENDRA MODI
Prime Minister

He said the recent GST rate cuts had led to a surge in the purchase of indigenous goods during the festive season.

Noting that numerous messages sent to him were on cleanliness drives, Mr. Modi highlighted "Garbage Cafes" as a unique initiative of Chhattisgarh's Ambikapur Municipal Corporation, through which meals are provided in exchange for plastic waste. He praised the efforts of Kapil Sharma, an engineer in Bengaluru, and his team who have revived 40 wells and six lakes in Bengaluru and surrounding areas in collaboration with corporates and local people. He also commended Gujarat's Forest Department for a mangrove plantation campaign over the past five years near Dholera, which has led to growth in marine life and an influx of migratory birds.

Referring to self-reliance initiatives, Mr. Modi said the Border Security Force and the Central Reserve Police Force had increased the number of Indian breed dogs in their contingents.

On the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, capabilities of Indian dogs will be showcased in the Ekta Diwas Parade near the Statue of Unity in Ekta Nagar, Gujarat, on October 31. He urged people to participate in the Run For Unity being organised on the occasion.

Terming "Koraput coffee" a pride of Odisha, the Prime Minister said Indian coffee was gaining international popularity, be it from Chikmagalur, Coorg and Hassan in Karnataka; the areas of Pulney, Shevaroy, Nilgiri and Annamalai in Tamil Nadu; the Biligiri region on the Karnataka-Tamil Nadu border; or the areas of Wayanad, Travancore and Malabar in Kerala. "Our Northeast is also progressing in coffee cultivation," he said.

Of the national song, written by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay, Mr. Modi said, "On November 7, we will be entering the 150th year of the celebration of *Vande Mataram*... Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore sang it for the first time." The national song was composed in Sanskrit.

"During the period of servitude and also after Independence, Sanskrit has consistently suffered from neglect... but, times are changing... the world of culture and social media has lent Sanskrit a new lease of life. These days, many young people are doing interesting work related to Sanskrit," he said, acknowledging the contributions made by creators such as Samashti, Bhavesh Bhimnathani, Bhai Yash Salunke; sisters Kamala and Janhavi; and Instagram channel "Sanskrit Chhatroham".

After Trump's oil remarks, Congress criticises PM

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Hours after U.S. President Donald Trump reiterated that India will cut down its imports of Russian oil "completely", the Congress criticised Prime Minister Narendra Modi, saying his "hugplomacy" was not visible in Kuala Lumpur.

Congress general secretary in charge of communications Jairam Ramesh said, "Last night, aboard Air Force One on the way to Kuala Lumpur, President Trump repeated, for at least the sixth time, the claim that India is cutting down on the imports of Russian oil. This time, he has said that India will zero the imports of Russian oil. No wonder, Mr. Modi's hugplomacy is not visible today in Kuala Lumpur."

Speaking to presspersons on board Air Force One, Mr. Trump said India would cut its purchase of Russian oil "completely". He also claimed that he had mediated the peace deal between India and Pakistan after Operation Sindoor in May 2025.

Since the imposition of penalty tariffs on India, Mr. Modi has held telephone conversations with President Trump and posted messages on social media in his praise, but the two have not met in person.

Direct flights from Kolkata to Guangzhou resume

Press Trust of India
KOLKATA

After a hiatus of over four years, direct commercial air services between Kolkata and mainland China's Guangzhou city resumed on Sunday with the first flight taking off from the Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport here at 10 p.m., an official said.

The A320 neo aircraft of private carrier IndiGo flew off from the airport with 176 passengers, the official said.

Direct flights were operational between the two countries till early 2020 before being suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The services remained suspended in view of the eastern Ladakh border row.

U.S. seeks stronger ties with Pakistan, but not at India's expense, says Rubio

Press Trust of India
WASHINGTON

The U.S. sees an opportunity to expand its strategic relationship with Pakistan but it will not be at the expense of its historic and important ties with India, U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio has said.

Ahead of his meeting with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar in Kuala Lumpur on Monday, Mr. Rubio, referring to India's energy ties with Russia, said New Delhi has already expressed a desire to diversify its procurement of crude oil.

The U.S. Secretary of State was interacting with journalists ahead of his trip to Malaysia for the ASEAN summit.

Mr. Rubio, to a question on the U.S. ties with Pakistan, said New Delhi is "concerned for obvious reasons" and that Washington's relationship with Islamabad will not be at the expense of the ties with New Delhi.

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio is set to meet External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar in Kuala Lumpur on Monday.

"But, I think they (India) have to understand we have to have relations with a lot of different countries. We see an opportunity to expand our strategic relationship with Pakistan," he said.

"I think the Indians are very mature when it comes to diplomacy and things of that nature. Look, they have some relationships with countries that we don't have relationships with. So, it's part of a mature, pragmatic foreign policy," he said.

"I don't think anything we're doing with Pakistan comes at the expense of our relationship or friendship with India, which is deep, historic, and important," Mr. Rubio added.

The U.S.-Pakistan ties have witnessed an upswing in the last six months, especially after President Donald Trump's meeting with Pakistan Army chief Field Marshal Asim Munir following the military conflict between India and Pakistan in May.

India-Russia oil trade

To another question on if India will be willing to really shove off its purchases of Russian oil for a trade deal with the U.S., Mr. Rubio said New Delhi has already expressed an interest in diversifying its oil portfolio.

U.K. interested in e-Courts project; team to visit India next week

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The United Kingdom has evinced interest in the e-Courts project that seeks to digitise entire court records, and a delegation from that country would be in the national capital next week to interact with top Union Law Ministry officials.

The ambitious e-Courts project is currently in its third phase with an aim to upgrade the digital infrastructure of subordinate judiciary across the country.

Officials said a delegation from the United Kingdom will visit the Department of Justice here on November 6 and interact with top officials and members of the e-committee of the Supreme Court.

The e-committee is the governing body charged with overseeing the e-Courts Project conceptualised under the "National Policy and Action Plan for Implementation of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in the Indian Judiciary-2005".

Under the ongoing phase three of the project, a total of 3,108 crore documents will be digitised.

As part of Phase-III, the system will be migrated to cloud technology, and the cost estimated for providing 25 petabytes (according to existing requirement) of cloud storage is ₹1,205.20 crore.

The project also seeks to establish and expand the scope of virtual courts for the hearing of cases by creating a robust digital infrastructure. A sum of ₹413.08 crore is the cost estimate for the establishment of 1,150 virtual courts.

Phase three of the project was cleared by the Union Cabinet in September 2023.

Aurangabad railway station gets a new name

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The South Central Railway xone on Saturday announced the renaming of the Aurangabad railway station in Maharashtra as the Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar railway station, after the son of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.

The move comes three years after Aurangabad city was renamed Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar.

The code of the new station, which falls under the Nanded Division of the South Central Railway zone, is 'CPSN'.

On October 15, Maharashtra's ruling Mahayuti alliance government issued a Gazette notification to this effect.

Haryana Police arrest Bishnoi aide deported by U.S., another criminal

Ashok Kumar
GURUGRAM

Two fugitives wanted in multiple cases of extortion, criminal intimidation, and attempt to murder, operating from outside India, have been arrested by the Haryana Police.

Director-General of Police O.P. Singh termed it "a major success against organised crime".

The arrests assume significance against the backdrop of high-profile cases of extortion and firing incidents targeting celebrities, including YouTuber Elvish Yadav, over the past few months in Haryana and the Opposition turning up the heat on the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government for alleged breakdown of law and order in the State.

Lakhwinder Singh, a fugitive gangster associated with the Lawrence Bishnoi gang.

In the first successful deportation from the United States, opening a new dimension of international cooperation in the Special Task Force's pursuit of criminal fugitives abroad, Lakhwinder Singh, alias Lakha, operating from the U.S. since 2022 under the directions of Lawrence Bishnoi's brother Anmol, was brought to India after the completion of all legal and procedural formalities on October 25 and arrested, the police said.

He was actively involved in multiple cases of extortion and firing incidents connected to organised crime in Haryana and Punjab.

Half-a-dozen cases of extortion, criminal intimidation and attempt to murder have been registered against him in Haryana – one each in Ambala, Sonipat, Rohtak, Kaithal, Yamuna Nagar and Kurukshetra. These cases primarily relate to the collection of extortion money, threats to life, and co-ordinated firing incidents executed at the behest of Lawrence Bishnoi-Anmol Bishnoi, said the police.

"STF scores major success against organised crime. Another coward, deserter, and traitor dragged from America by Haryana police. He was wanted in several States for extortion and firing cases," read a post by Mr. Singh.

In another case, notorious criminal Sunil Sardhania, 39, wanted in connection with the firing on singer-rapper Rahul Fazilpuria, was arrested at the IGI International Airport by the Gurugram police on Sunday on his return from Costa Rica.

Unidentified persons, in a white car, had opened fire on the car of Mr. Fazikpuria on Southern Peripheral Road on July 14. Sunil is also wanted in connection with the murder of financier Rohit Shokeen and a firing incident outside the office of a real estate agent.

Satara doctor's death an 'institutionalised murder', says Rahul

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday called the death of a Satara doctor an "institutionalised murder", saying it exposed the "inhuman and insensitive" nature of the BJP government.

"The very authority tasked with protecting the public from criminals committed the most heinous crime against this innocent woman – rape and exploitation. According to reports, some influential individuals associated with the BJP also attempted to pressure her into corruption," Mr. Gandhi said on X, adding, "This is not a suicide – it is an institutional murder."

In response, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said Mr. Gandhi's tweets lacked information, while he and his party members "never forget to politicise such sensitive issues".

Mr. Gandhi said the doctor's death after rape and harassment was a tragedy that shook the conscience of any civilised society.

"A promising doctor, who aspired to help others, became a victim of persecution by criminals within a corrupt system," he said.

So far, two men - software engineer Prashant Bankar and police sub-inspector Gopal Badane - named by the doctor in a note on her palm, have been arrested.

BIHAR ASSEMBLY ELECTION

'Being Bihari matter of pride for people'

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Sunday asserted that law and order had remarkably improved in the State after his government came to power in November 2005, and claimed that "being Bihari is a matter of pride now" for its residents.

In a lengthy post on X, he wrote, "When our government came to power in 2005, we prioritised the restoration of law and order above all else and established the rule of law. A policy of zero tolerance was adopted for crime and corruption. Now, there is no atmosphere of fear or terror in the State." Hitting out at the INDIA bloc, Mr. Nitish said that before 2005 (when the RJD was in power), there was complete anarchy.

The people had decided in 2005 that they wanted Bihar to progress on the path of development, he said. PTI

People walk by decorations as part of a voter awareness campaign in Bihar. PTI

CPI(ML) pledges land, housing and loan waiver

The Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) Liberation on Sunday released its *Sankalp Patra* for the Bihar election, promising justice for the landless, redistribution of around 21 lakh acres of land, loan waiver for farmers and rural labourers, and 65% reservation for disadvantaged communities, among others.

The CPI(ML) manifesto promised every landless and homeless family five decimals of land in rural areas and three decimals of land in urban areas, and a pucca house.

The party also promised the redistribution of around 21 lakh acres of land by implementing the recommendations of the Bandyopadhyay Commission.

It promised a directorate and State-wise assistance centres for the safety of migrant labourers. PTI

> Those who created jungle raj are dreaming of bringing the moon, sun, and stars to Patna, which won't happen because they lack credibility
>
> **DHARMENDRA PRADHAN**
> Union Education Minister

Naqvi takes swipe at Bihar Opposition

Senior BJP leader Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi on Sunday took a swipe at the Opposition alliance in Bihar, and said it will collapse under the weight of its own conflicts. He said alliances succeed through political understanding.

Another defeat is about to be added to the Congress tally in Bihar, he claimed. PTI

> Bihar gave power to Lalu Prasad's family for 15 years, but only 94,000 people got govt. jobs. In the reign of Nitish, 18.5 lakh people got jobs
>
> **SAMRAT CHOUDHARY**
> Bihar Deputy CM and BJP leader

Ray of hope: Prashant Kishor during a campaign for the Bihar Assembly election. PTI

Kishor's home turf awaits verdict on Jan Suraaj promises

Amit Bhelari
KARGAHAR

The people of Konar are eagerly waiting for November 11, when Bihar will vote in the second and final phase of the Assembly election. The village, which falls in the Kargahar constituency, is where the ancestral home of Jan Suraaj Party (JSP) founder Prashant Kishor is situated.

Mr. Kishor's house is visible from the main road as one enters the village, some 12 km from Sasaram.

Spread over sprawling but unkempt premises, the 17-room rundown house is surrounded by tall grass. Stepping into the compound, one finds Kedar Pandey, the lone caretaker. He is hesitant to show around, but a quick glance shows the broken windows, doors, and cracked walls.

Ever since Mr. Kishor stopped visiting the village, the house has fallen into a state of disrepair. A few chairs in the corner welcome those who have been visiting the house after the leader created quite a buzz in the run-up to the election by taking on the ruling and Opposition leaders.

Besides JSP flags, stickers and a small cut-out of Mr. Kishor in one corner of the house, there is a poster of Ritesh Ranjan Pandey, the Bhojpuri singer and actor whom the JSP has fielded from Kargahar.

The caretaker said Mr. Kishor had last visited the dilapidated two-storey building in 2017, when his mother passed away. In 2019, his father, Shrikant Pandey, breathed his last in a private hospital in Delhi.

Mixed population

Konar has over 4,500 residents, a mixed population of Brahmins, Kurmis, Koeris, Kushwahas, Dalits, and Muslims. There are no Rajputs and Bhumihars in the village. Many youngsters from here have migrated to the other States in search of jobs – a story that is central to Mr. Kishor's poll campaign.

People believe that Mr. Kishor can bring in change if his candidates win. But they also expressed disappointment over him not contesting the polls. Initially, he announced that he would throw his hat in the ring from Kargahar or Raghopur, but backtracked.

The people praised the work of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, with some saying that he did good work in the first five years, but his desire to become the Prime Minister made the State's development a casualty.

"He was a very good administrator who kept only development on his agenda. He gave good roads and round-the-clock electricity and water supply, and controlled crime. However, in the past 15 years, his working style has changed and has come to the lowest rank now," Sanatan Pandey, a resident, said.

Mr. Kishor's neighbour, Shashikant Pandey, said Konar's people had "complete trust" that the JSP founder would bring change.

Kargahar will see a triangular contest as Mr. Ritesh Ranjan has been pitted against Congress MLA Santosh Kumar Mishra and Janata Dal(U) candidate Bashisth Singh, who had represented the seat from 2015 to 2020.

Mr. Kishor's talk of stopping migration has struck a note here.

Yogendra Paswan, a villager, said: "He [Mr. Kishor] has promised to provide employment and we don't want to go to the other States, leaving our own village and family."

Ramanand Gupta, from the Teli community, which falls under the Extremely Backward Classes, spoke about the JSP's promises. "If he takes a U-turn from his promises, then the public will not vote for him next time. If his intentions are honest, poor people like me will back him," he said.

In home district, Nitish Kumar retains trust amid calls for fresh leadership

Chief Minister is credited for his administrative acumen and his integrity and experience earn continued trust of the people; however, voters note concerns over bureaucratic dominance and the lack of fresh leadership; despite calls for change, loyalty to him remains strong in his home district

IN FOCUS

Sobhana K. Nair
NALANDA

Upnesh Kumar, 79, sums up three decades of Bihar politics in three sentences about electricity supply to his village.

"During [Chief Minister] Jagannath Mishra's time (December 1989-March 1990), even before you could run from the fields after switching on the motor, the power would go out. In Lalu [Prasad]'s era (March 1990-November 2005), all power lines were down. Under Nitish Kumar (November 2005 onwards), we get 22-23 hours of power each day," Mr. Upnesh Kumar said. He is a Kurmi, the same caste as Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's.

At the end of two decades in power, Mr. Nitish Kumar remains the centrepiece of Bihar politics. But this election is more about the question: is it Mr. Nitish Kumar's swansong, or does he have another symphony left in him.

A long journey

It has been a long journey for him. In 1977, at the crest of the anti-Congress wave, many young socialist leaders briskly rode to Parliament, but Mr. Nitish Kumar lost the elections by 5,895 votes, sticking out as an odd one among his socialist colleagues. He did no better the second time around. In the 1980 Assembly polls, he was defeated again. It was only in his third outing in the 1985 Assembly election that he finally tasted victory. He was never again without a seat in the legislature. Since 1995, Harnaut has been with the Samata Party and then the Janata Dal (United).

Bihar's economic development has been chequered. Mr. Nitish Kumar is credited for his administrative acumen, yet there is statistical evidence often cited by his opponents to underline his failures.

In response to a question by JD(U) MP Giridhari Yadav in the last session, Parliament was told that, as per the provisional estimates released on May 30, 2025, the per capita Net National Income is ₹2,05,324, while that of Bihar is ₹69,321. Bihar's share of national GDP also remains less than 3%. In 1960-61, united Bihar was at 7.8% – fourth highest in the country. With Jharkhand being carved out, it came down to 2.8% in 2000-01 and has remained stagnant at the same figure in 2023-24, says the Economic Advisory Council to the PM's September 2024 report on "Relative economic performance of Indian States".

Ballot battle: It was only in Nitish Kumar's third outing in the 1985 Assembly election that he finally tasted victory; he was never again without a seat in the legislature. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

These statistics cut little ice in Harnaut, where the neat tree-lined roads, regular water and power supply, are seen as better markers for the elusive "*vikas*" (development) that politicians talk about but the voters rarely get to see.

Mr. Upnesh Kumar's neighbour, Ashutosh Kumar (65), also a Kurmi, chimes in. "There is no one who is as trustworthy as him in any party, BJP included," he said. Speculation about his declining mental acuity and the BJP's machinations to push him out of the Chief Minister's chair is earning him the sympathy of the electorate here.

Two complaints

Mr. Nitish Kumar's untainted persona is hailed, but there are two common complaints – the growing dominance of bureaucracy and the JD(U) legislators. The JD(U) dropped only four of its sitting legislators.

Kalyan Bigha is Mr. Nitish Kumar's ancestral village. Here, his two-storey house stands next to the village pond. The house stands aloof, much like its owner.

Pappu Thakur, who belongs to the Nai community listed as Extremely Backward Community, has a shop opposite the Chief Minister's home.His vote remains for the JD(U), after all, if not for the infrastructure that the Nitish government built, he argues, could he have returned after living in Mumbai for 21 years. But he is not an uncomplaining voter. He is angry that the JD(U) didn't change Harnaut's MLA, Harinarayan Singh, who has been in the seat since 2010.

The electorate could have done with a new face and a younger candidate, he says. Harnaut has been a battleground of the JD(U) vs the Lok Janshakti Party. For the past three elections, it has been a direct contest between the two. For the first time, the two parties are on the same side, allowing the Congress to take the space of a challenger.

In the Nalanda constituency, where Rural Development Minister and JD (U) leader Sharwan Kumar is in fray, voters cite similar complaints. "Sharwan Kumar wins only because he is contesting from the JD (U), otherwise he would not win a panchayat election," Lav Kumar Mishra, a villager, says. Their complaint is that he is working through "agents" in villages, disconnected from the populace. While Mr. Mishra takes the next step, declaring that he will vote for the Jan Suraaj Party this time, simply because he is eager to see change, however, others don't agree. "Prashant Kishor is untested. Nitish Kumar is tested and trusted," P.K. Verma, a Chandravanshi, said. In Nalanda, for now, it is Mr. Nitish Kumar.

Will throw Waqf Act in dustbin if RJD comes to power, vows Tejashwi Yadav

Amit Bhelari
SASARAM

Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader and Grand Alliance's chief ministerial face for Bihar, Tejashwi Yadav, said on Sunday that the Waqf (Amendment) Act would be "thrown in the dustbin" if his party came to power in the State.

Mr. Yadav, who was addressing his first election rally in Katihar's Seemanchal region on Sunday, said the RJD had never compromised with its ideology, and his father and party supremo, Lalu Prasad, had never bowed down to "communal forces".

'BJP scared of Lalu'

Lashing out at Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar for "switching sides", Mr. Yadav said the former has given space to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) in Bihar.

"When my father and mother were Chief Ministers, the BJP and the RSS could not dare to incite riots. We never bow down, and Lalu *ji* has always fought against the BJP and today also we are strongly standing against them. The BJP is most afraid of Lalu *ji*. Let it bring any Bill. I want to tell you that when our party forms the government, we will throw the Waqf Act in the dustbin," he said in the Pranpur Assembly constituency.

Making promises: RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav addressing a press conference at his official residence in Patna on Sunday. PTI

Tejashwi Yadav promised to double the allowance of three-tier panchayat representatives

The statement drew sharp criticism from the BJP, with Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Kumar Sinha saying it reflected Mr. Yadav's "unruly, unparliamentary and unconstitutional conduct". "The Bill was passed and made an Act by the country's Parliament... If he (Mr. Yadav) behaves this way while being in the Opposition, he will do nothing but spread anarchy and terror if he comes to power," Mr. Sinha said.

Mr. Sinha said that Mr. Yadav was raised during the "era of appeasement" by the RJD-Congress and the 'jungle raj'; therefore, expecting him to possess knowledge of democratic norms and parliamentary decorum is "futile".

Mr. Sinha added that the Waqf Act does not interfere with religious freedom and the changes made were administrative in nature.

'Give a chance'

Mr. Yadav said the people of Bihar are "eagerly awaiting change" in government.

"Just as stagnant water rots, sowing the same seeds in the same field for 20 years ruins both the field and the crop. Similarly, the two-decade-old NDA government has ruined Seemanchal, and no work has been done for two generations," he said.

The RJD leader said he was only "asking for a chance". "You gave the NDA 20 years, just give me 20 months. Together, we will build a new Bihar and once voted to power, we will form Seemanchal Development Authority for the development of this region," he said.

Later in the day, Mr. Yadav addressed public meetings in Kishanganj and Ararai of the Seemanchal region.

Poll promises

Earlier in the day, Mr. Yadav promised to double the allowance of three-tier panchayat representatives. "The allowances of three-tier panchayat representatives and gram kachari representatives will be doubled. They will be insured for ₹50 lakh. Pension will be introduced for former panchayat and gram kachari representatives," he said.

He said that Public Distribution System distributors will be given honorarium.

Mr. Yadav added that for the economic uplift and self-employment of barbers, potters, carpenters, and blacksmiths, a one-time interest-free financial assistance of ₹5 lakh will be provided for five years. With this amount, they can purchase modern tools and equipment and start self-employment.

JD(U) cracks down on 16 leaders, cites 'anti-party activities'

Press Trust of India
PATNA

Cracking down on rebellion in the party ahead of the Assembly election, the ruling Janata Dal (United) expelled 16 leaders, including an MLA and two former Ministers, most of whom have entered the fray against official NDA candidates.

The expulsions have been announced in two separate communications, one issued late on Saturday and the other on Sunday, in which the rebel leaders have been charged with "anti-party activities" and violation of the ideology of the JD(U).

Among those who have been expelled is Narendra Niraj, aka Gopal Mandal, the MLA of Gopalpur in Bhagalpur district.

Mr. Mandal recently staged a dharna in front of the Chief Minister's residence in Patna when he learnt that the party was going to drop him from the list of candidates.

However, when party ticket went to Bulo Mandal, an RJD turncoat, Mr. Mandal filed his nomination papers as an Independent candidate.

Besides Mr. Mandal, those named in the communication issued on Sunday are Sanjeev Shyam Singh, a former MLC who is contesting the Gurua Assembly seat in Gaya district as the candidate of the Jan Suraaj Party, and former Minister Himraj Singh, who is fighting from Katihar as an Independent.

Narendra Niraj stages a protest outside the Bihar Chief Minister's residence. ANI

Among those who have been expelled is Narendra Niraj, who is contesting as an Independent

'Defying ideology'

Reacting to the development, a senior JD(U) leader said, "These expelled leaders were working against the officially declared candidates of the party and other NDA constituents. They were defying our ideology."

INBRIEF

Murmu inaugurates Yashoda Medicity in Ghaziabad

President Droupadi Murmu inaugurated Yashoda Medicity, a private hospital, at Indirapuram in Ghaziabad on Sunday. Speaking on the occasion, P.N. Arora, chairman, Yashoda Medicity and Yashoda Group of Hospitals, said the healthcare facility was among North India's most advanced and sustainable multi-speciality healthcare destinations. Other dignitaries included Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, and Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Anupriya Patel. Yashoda Medicity, with a capacity of 1,200 beds, offers over 65 specialities.

Film and TV personalities pay tribute to actor Satish Shah

Family members, friends, and colleagues from the film and television industry bid a tearful adieu to actor Satish Shah, who was cremated here on Sunday. Industry veteran Naseeruddin Shah and wife Ratna Pathak Shah, who was also Mr. Satish Shah's co-star in *Sarabhai vs Sarabhai*, other actors from the fan-favourite show, and members of the film fraternity attended the final farewell. Shah passed away on Saturday at the age of 74 following a kidney ailment. He is survived by wife, Madhu Shah. The last rites were conducted by Shah's personal assistant Ramesh Kadatala at a crematorium in Vile Parle. The actor's friends and colleagues, Pankaj Kapur, Supriya Pathak, Swaroop Sampat, and Suresh Oberoi, were also present. PTI

Japan seeks Indian workers but people-to-people ties lag

Japan, with one-third of its population over the age of 65, requires a workforce, academics for research, and a market for its goods, while India, with 65% of its 1.4 billion population under 35, faces rising pressure to create opportunities for its youth

Suhasini Haidar
TOKYO

Low numbers: Japan ranks 34th among countries where Indian students pursue higher education. Only about 1,500 Indian students are currently registered in Japan. AFP

Since 1981, when Suzuki Motor Corporation set up a factory in India to manufacture the Maruti car, the Japanese company has been a byword for bilateral ties, Kenichi Ayukawa, executive vice-president and chief global marketing officer, who headed Maruti Suzuki operations in India from 2013 to 2022, says.

Suzuki was among the first to bring Japanese engineers to India to streamline processes and train Indian workers to build the car. With both New Delhi and Tokyo seeking solutions to Japan's ageing population and India's burgeoning youth population, the company is now reversing that trend.

"Suzuki is now trying to invite a lot of Indians to Japan, training them and helping them develop technology in Japan," Mr. Ayukawa said, accompanied by Indian scholar and Suzuki executive Chandrali Sarkar. Ms. Sarkar first came to Japan to study at Keio University and has been working on India operations at Suzuki's Hamamatsu headquarters, about 250 km from Tokyo, since 2022. She noted that while some hesitation among Indians stems from limited Japanese language skills, the broader challenge is unfamiliarity with Japan.

"Japan should know more about India and vice versa. Especially the next generation needs to connect, and we need more Indian students, engineers, professionals to come to Japan," said Kenji Hiramatsu, Chairman of the Institute for International Strategy at The Japan Research Institute (JRI), and Japan's Ambassador to India from 2015 to 2019. "It is important that we change the mindset of Indian youth that Japan is a special partner for India," he added, noting that the current number of Indians studying in Japan is far below its potential.

Japan opens doors

According to a parliamentary response from the Indian Ministry of Education last year, Japan ranks 34th among countries where Indian students pursue higher education. Only about 1,500 Indian students are currently registered in Japan, a small fraction of more than 3.3 lakh foreign students in the country. Employment figures are similarly modest: about 54,000 Indians work in Japan, one-fourth of the 2.3 lakh Nepali citizens among a total of 23 lakh foreign workers.

To address this shortfall, Japan is preparing to open its doors to thousands like Ms. Sarkar under an "Action Plan" launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and former Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba in August. The plan aims to facilitate five lakh workforce exchanges over the next five years, including the movement of 50,000 skilled personnel from India to Japan.

Officials in the Cabinet Secretariat and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs point to the "perfect complementarity" between the two countries. Japan, with one-third of its population over the age of 65, requires a workforce, academics for research, and a market for its goods. India, with 65% of its 1.4 billion population under 35, faces rising pressure to create opportunities for its youth amid stricter immigration policies in the U.S., Canada, and Europe, and Chinese restrictions on high-tech and semiconductor exports.

Despite decades of growing government-to-government and business-to-business ties, the officials said, people-to-people connections between India and Japan continue to lag.

(The correspondent is visiting Japan at the invitation of the Japan Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Satellite for armed forces to be launched next week

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will launch military communications satellite CMS-03 on November 2 from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota.

The CMS-03 communication satellite, also known as GSAT-7R, will be launched by the Launch Vehicle Mark 3 (LVM3).

Heavy satellite

"CMS-03 is a multi-band communication satellite that will provide services over a wide oceanic region including the Indian landmass. CMS-03, weighing about 4,400 kg, will be the heaviest communication satellite to be launched to Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO) from Indian soil," the ISRO said on Sunday.

The launch vehicle has been fully assembled and integrated with the spacecraft, and has been moved to the launch pad on Sunday for further pre-launch operations, it added.

The launch of CMS-03 will be the first by the LVM3 rocket in over two years. The last time the rocket was deployed was in July 2023 to launch the historic Chandrayaan-3 mission from Sriharikota.

Prepare for Janjatiya Gaurav Divas in November, Centre tells States

Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI

Tribal artists performing traditional dance during the Janjatiya Gaurav Divas programme in Bhopal in 2021. A.M. FARUQUI

In the run-up to the fifth Janjatiya Gaurav Divas on November 15, which will mark the end of tribal icon Birsa Munda's 150th birth anniversary, the Union government has written to the States, including poll-bound Bihar, and Union Territories, saying they "must organise" commemorative events at the State and district levels from November 1 to 15.

In a letter sent to the Principal Secretaries of Tribal Welfare Departments in the States and Union Territories last week, the Tribal Affairs Ministry said that since November 15 marked the end of Birsa's 150th birth anniversary year, "all the States/UTs must participate in celebrating" the occasion.

"However, States where the model code of conduct is in force are being requested to celebrate the Diwas adhering to the MCC."

The letter asked the States and Union Territories to "actively participate" in "inauguration or benefit disbursal targeting tribal populations, launch of tribal-focused schemes, capacity building" and highlighting government schemes such as PM-JANMAN, Dharti Aba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan, and Adi Karmayogi Abhiyan.

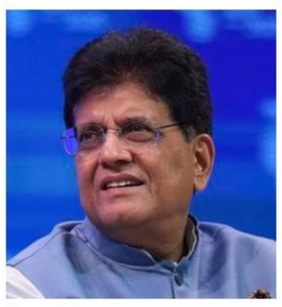
The letter said that for the national-level event at this year's Janjatiya Gaurav Divas, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected, and participation has been requested of 25 States and Union Territories, excluding Bihar.

In the suggested activities annexed with the Tribal Affairs Ministry's letter, the government has recommended the display of "Tribal Village Vision 2030" documents prepared under the Adi Karmayogi scheme, interactions of State VVIPs with PM-JANMAN beneficiaries, and painting exhibition of artworks by students of Eklavya school for tribal students. The list also recommends events like Adi Haats for products made by Van Dhan Vikas Kendras, self-help groups, and tribal artisans.

The government has also suggested that the States and Union Territories hold campaigns for saturation of individual entitlements and contests in schools, colleges, to celebrate tribal heritage, in addition to arranging health awareness campaigns through Mobile Medical Units.

Piyush Goyal to visit Brussels today as India-EU trade talks intensify

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI



Piyush Goyal

Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal will visit Brussels on October 27 and 28 to hold high-level discussions with his counterpart in the European Union (EU) to provide "strategic direction and political impetus" to the ongoing negotiations on a free trade agreement between India and the European Union.

At the same time, a delegation of the European Parliament Trade Committee will be in New Delhi from October 27 to 29 to enhance "mutual understanding amid intensive trade negotiations between the EU and India".

According to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Mr. Goyal's visit to Brussels and meeting with Maroš Šefčovič, Executive Vice-President and European Commissioner for Trade of the European Union, comes at a "crucial stage" in the negotiations.

'Will cover key areas'

"Building on the momentum generated by the 14th round of negotiations held earlier this month, the Minister's visit aims to provide strategic direction and political impetus to the talks," the Ministry said in a release.

"Discussions are expected to cover key areas of the proposed FTA, including market access, non-tariff measures, and regulatory cooperation," the release added. "The visit will also serve to review progress achieved so far and to identify areas requiring further convergence."

Mr. Goyal will hold a bilateral meeting with Mr. Šefčovič, which will be followed by a working dinner.

This will not be considered a formal round of negotiations, but a continuation of discussions.

The Hindu, on October 16, reported that while discussions were ongoing between India and the EU, the next formal round of negotiations had not yet been finalised as the issues holding up the deal required continuous communication rather than waiting for a formal round.

These issues included market access, regulatory cooperation and agricultural sensitivities.

The delegation of the Trade Committee will include seven members of the European Parliament, according to a press release issued by the European Parliament.

"The main objective of this visit is to contribute to increasing our mutual understanding amid intensive trade negotiations between the EU and India," the co-heads of delegation Cristina Maestre and Brando Benifei said in a joint statement. "The mission is timely taking place just a few months ahead of the deadline to conclude negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement by the end of 2025."

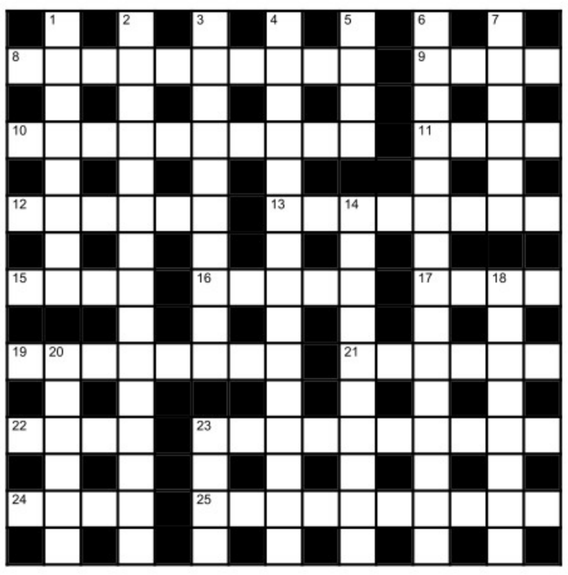
During their visit to India, the delegation will meet a variety of stakeholders.

TH CROSSWORD + 14623

(set by Vidwan)

Solve this puzzle online and access more puzzles at *https://crossword.thehindu.com*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

8 Spooner's blending alternate for a mocktail (6,4)
9 Bare element for God of the wisdom (4)
10 Bail at once? Difficult for criminal (10)
11 Love comical mouse (4)
12 Dance was complicated, like a puzzle (6)
13 Young flier jiggles, gets in line occasionally (8)
15 Wrong returns? Run! (4)
16 Cell where the two, together welcomed love (5)
17 Every pain in the end comes to the fore (4)
19 A very loud score reaching inwardly towards the core (8)
21 Agitating over European Union works, totally! (6)
22 Unwritten unbounded ethics (4)
23 Doctor submits a case of subocular squint (10)
24 Pluto's cold circle (4)
25 Tell about new English royal's unexpected meeting (10)

Down

1 More sticky like power and lust! That is right! (8)
2 Technical task! Go rushing! As fast as possible! (7,3,5)
3 Lost without direction, Elba won all around, that is something beyond comprehension (10)
4 Measure of pollution by a person or vehicle, good base to record on paper (6,9)
5 Bits found in twisted safety belts (4)
6 Fitting in elusive clue on a French culinary style (8,7)
7 Substitute flipper getting sick (4,2)
14 Most choose fancy look over piece of basic student literature (10)
18 Song about purpose of conveyor belt (8)
20 Ban because of command (6)
23 Antidotes are distributed after end of trials (4)

SUDOKU

7		2				6		
		3		4		7	9	
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			8		9			
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		8				3		5

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

No.SS6682 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to previous puzzle

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

8	6	9	5	2	4	7	1	3
1	7	3	9	8	6	5	4	2
4	5	2	7	1	3	6	8	9
7	4	1	8	9	2	3	5	6
6	2	8	3	5	1	9	7	4
3	9	5	4	6	7	1	2	8
5	8	6	1	4	9	2	3	7
9	3	4	2	7	5	8	6	1
2	1	7	6	3	8	4	9	5

FAITH

Tiruchendur Murugan

Tiruchendur's Subrahmanya Swamy temple, one of the six famous abodes of Muruga, is celebrated in ancient Tamil works, including Silappathikaram, Agananooru and Purannanooru. Scholars say this temple finds mention in the Ramayana as well. Dating back centuries, this temple which attracts devotees round the year, has witnessed the patronage of various powerful kings, including the Pandyas, the Nayakas, the princely Travancore state, apart from a number of revered saints. The great Adi Sankara came to this temple, seeking to be cured of his illness and rendered the moving work, Subrahmanya Bhujangam, said P. Swaminathan.

The legend of Tiruchendur Subrahmanya (Murugan), chronicling the fall of the powerful asura Soorapadhman at the hands of Murugan, whose army included the nine warriors, is well-known. This event, underscoring the outcome of failure to lead a dharmic life despite being pious, is celebrated as Soorasamharam, among devotees across the world.

Unlike the other famous abodes of Murugan which are on hills, this temple, where the deity is also known as Senthilandavar, is situated on the seashore. However, it is believed there was once a hillock thick with sandalwood trees, eroded by the vicissitudes of time. Historically, this place was called Kandhamadhanaparvadham (*Kandham* means sandalwood and *parvadham*, a hillock). The Kanda Purana says Veerabahu stood on top of the Kandhamadhana hill and worshipped Murugan before facing Soorapadhman. After Murugan defeated Soorapadhman, He prayed to Siva at this sthalam, in order to expiate the sin of killing.

ASKUS

Vaishali R. Venkat

Q I am reaching out to you to understand the difference between price and value. I am particularly interested in knowing what we should prioritise before making an investment – should it be the price or the value? I look forward to reading your detailed explanation on this topic.
S. VEENA VIJAY

A In simple terms, 'Price is what you pay; value is what you get.' The idea traces its roots to Benjamin Graham, regarded as the father of value investing. However, American investor and philanthropist Warren Buffett popularised his mentor's thought in this crisp and memorable form. Suppose you hold Maxi stock and its current market price is ₹300. On any trading day, its price may swing wildly, rising and falling even within minutes.

The fate and fortunes of shareholders holding Maxi's stock can seem to change overnight if they panic and rush to sell. But that doesn't mean that in a single day, Maxi opened a new branch, sales skyrocketed, profit peaked and in the evening, Maxi shut its factory or reversed all its sales or closed a branch. The real business value of Maxi doesn't change so dramatically in a single day or a week.

Investors must understand that price is what they pay at a particular moment. It is determined by demand, supply, liquidity, sentiment, and even geopolitical tensions. It can change every minute because it is influenced by emotion and perception.

Value, on the other hand, represents the intrinsic worth, or the real strength of a company, determined by measurable fundamentals such as earnings, cash flow, assets, growth potential, competitive advantage, financial stability, debt and management quality, etc. Analysts use models such as the Discounted Cash Flow (DCF) method or Price-to-Earnings (P/E) and Price-to-Book (P/B) ratios to estimate intrinsic value. While price reflects the market's opinion today, value reflects the company's reality over time.

Regular investors need not worry about the math and it's enough to understand what these metrics indicate about a company's financial health and growth potential.

There are many instances wherein price deviates from real value. During phases of herd behaviour, investors tend to buy when others are buying and sell when others are selling, which drives prices away from fundamentals. Similarly, speculative bubbles such as the dot-com boom of the early 2000s inflated prices far beyond their underlying value.

Investor emotions such as greed and fear also create massive short-term volatility. News and headlines can change prices in the short term but the intrinsic value of a company cannot be altered completely in a day.

For instance, when Elon Musk tweets about Tesla, the stock price might fluctuate sharply, but the firm's intrinsic worth still depends on its production efficiency, innovation capacity, financial performance, and long-term demand for electric vehicles.

Therefore, when the price of a fundamentally strong company dips temporarily, it can actually be an opportunity to accumulate shares at a discounted price to their true value. Intelligent investors focus on buying value, not price. The market may misprice a company in the short run, but in the long run, real value always asserts itself.

Ways to estimate value

Even ordinary investors can estimate the true worth (value) of a company using freely available public information. A simple approach is to review the company's historical earnings and cash flow trends over three to five years to assess growth stability.

Examining debt levels provides insight into the company's financial risk. Companies with steady earnings growth, strong cash flows, manageable debt, and a consistent dividend record usually indicate lasting value. Carefully reviewing annual reports and management commentary can be helpful in understanding the company's long-term vision. Value investing is about discipline, patience, and confidence in core business, facts and fundamentals, and not merely quick profit.

(The writer is an NISM & CRISIL-certified Wealth Manager and certified in NISM's Research Analyst module)

Send queries on personal finance and investing to the moneywise@thehindu.co.in ID. Our experts in personal finance will respond to select queries, but will not give specific recommendations for investment in a particular mutual fund, share or fixed deposit.

ILLUSTRATION: SAINATH B.

This festive season, invest smart via new-age ULIP

A long-term investor can expect comparable/better post-tax returns if he/she makes the right investment choices; gap in returns can turn wider if one considers possible rise in LTCG tax rate

WEALTH CREATION

Pavit Laul

For most Indians, investing is about securing life's milestone. Whether it's planning for retirement, children's education or building a safety net, every investment carries a long-term dream. The success of these dreams depends on staying invested long enough for compounding to work.

That's where new-age ULIPs (Unit Linked Insurance Plans) have found renewed relevance. They encourage the very thing that drives wealth creation: long-term, consistent investing. Once criticised for being opaque and expensive, ULIPs have evolved into efficient, transparent, and tax-smart financial products. With lower charges, complete visibility and built-in life cover, they are reshaping how serious investors approach long-term wealth creation.

Tax-free advantage

Among market-linked investments, taxation often decides how much of return you actually keep. While equity mutual funds (MFs) attract 12.5% long-term capital gains (LTCG) tax on profit above ₹1.25 lakh, ULIPs maturity proceeds are totally tax-free under Sec 10(10D), provided annual premiums stay within ₹2.5 lakh and the sum assured is at least 10 times the premium.

> Today, FMC for online ULIPs stand at 1.25–1.35%, almost identical to the 1.2% typical of regular MFs and a tad higher than 0.5% charged by direct funds

> ULIP transformation is the result of regulatory reforms, rise of digital distribution; a decade ago, ULIPs carried huge front loaded cost; those days are gone

Over decades, this advantage adds up significantly. For instance, an investor allocating ₹10,000 a month for 10 years and staying invested for 20 years could see a ULIP corpus of about ₹85-86 lakh at a 15% market return. A similar direct MF might yield about ₹95 lakh pre-tax, but after paying LTCG tax, the take-home amount drops to about ₹84 lakh. Compared with regular MFs with higher expenses, the post-tax gap can widen to almost ₹10-12 lakh.

To sum up, a long-term investor can expect comparable or even better post-tax returns if he/she makes the right investment choices. Moreover, the gap in returns can turn wider if one considers the realistic possibility of a rise in LTCG tax rates 10 or 20 years down the line.

Cost revolution

This ULIP transformation is the result of steady regulatory reforms and the rise of digital distribution. A decade ago, ULIPs carried heavy front-loaded cost even as high as 5-6% a year. Those days are gone.

Today, fund management charges (FMCs) for online ULIPs stand at about 1.25-1.35%, almost identical to the 1.2% typical of regular MFs and tad higher than the 0.5% charged by direct funds. The leaner cost structures put ULIPs on par with market-linked instruments in efficiency, while retaining tax advantages.

Discipline, an edge

ULIPs' real strength lies in how they keep investors invested. With a mandatory lock-in period of five years, they promote long-term discipline, something even seasoned investors often struggle to maintain with open-ended products.

In a market prone to short-term speculation, ULIPs shift focus to time in the market rather than timing it. This builds consistency, cuts impulsive decisions and undisturbed compounding to work undisturbed. Over time, this behaviour turns the biggest differentiator between erratic savers and successful wealth creators.

It may surprise many in other market-linked instruments such as MFs, only a single-digit percentage of investors stay invested beyond five years. ULIPs, however, encourage long-term discipline and enable superior wealth creation via compounding.

Dual protection

Beyond returns, ULIPs combine wealth creation with life insurance, ensuring even in an unforeseen event, your family's financial goals remain secure.

In case of any unfortunate event, a 'Waiver of Premium' option kicks in ensuring long-term goals such as children's education or spouse's financial security continue to be fulfilled. ULIPs continue to be the only instrument that offers such a powerful family protection along with market-linked returns.

Way to stay invested

Today's investors, especially younger ones, are far more tax-aware and goal-oriented. They recognise true wealth creation comes from consistent, efficient investing rather than chasing short-term returns. ULIPs align perfectly with this thinking, offering an integrated solution that merges protection, tax efficiency and long-term discipline. With the recent GST cut, ULIPs have become even more affordable. They deliver simplicity, focus and fiscal prudence, qualities resonating with India's emerging investor generation. For those believing wealth is built by staying the course, new-age ULIPs are a disciplined and tax-efficient path to long-term prosperity.

(The writer is head of Investments, Policybazaar.com)

Crucial to rebalance

THINKINVESTOR

One should adopt a disciplined approach towards savings. Systematic Investment Plans are only the first step to accumulating wealth. Managing the portfolio is as important.

Venkatesh Bangaruswamy

Commentaries on the Internet abound about how you must have a disciplined approach to savings. And what better way than setting up systematic investment plans (SIPs). But SIPs are only the first step to accumulating wealth. Managing the portfolio is as important. Previously, we discussed about portfolio rebalancing. Here, we discuss why this is key to accumulate wealth.

Protecting gains

Your first step in the investment process is complete when you invest as per your asset allocation decision, say, 60% of annual savings in an equity fund and 40% in a recurring deposit. Then, you must manage your investments through the time horizon for the life goal.

This is relevant when investing in capital-appreciation products. Bank deposits do not need continual monitoring if invested in cumulative and recurring deposits, as they compound interest till maturity.

Crucial process

The process of managing and adjusting your investment allocation is referred to as portfolio rebalancing. Why is this process important? A dip in the equity market can significantly reduce the gains accumulated over the years. So, you must design a rule to protect these gains. Now, taking out unrealised gains every year will attract taxes, lowering investment's post-tax returns.

Where to invest

Also, where to invest the gains? Reinvesting in the equity market defeats the very reason you took the gains in the first place. So, you are likely to invest in bank deposits. But that means reducing the expected return on investments; for return on bank deposits are hugely lower than the expected return on equity investments. So, what should you do?

Conclusion

To create a rebalancing rule, you must first assume a realistic expected pre-tax annual return on equity (say 12%). Then, add one percentage point to this expected return to arrive at a threshold level (13%). If the unrealised gains (say 14%) on equity investments is more than the threshold level (13%) in any year, you should sell units equivalent to the difference between the unrealised gain and the expected return (14 less 12%).

This rule maintains the initial investment and the expected pre-tax return in the portfolio and lowers the frequency of taxable events through the threshold level. Note the sale proceeds must be invested in fixed deposits with maturity matching the time horizon of the life goal.

(The author offers training programmes for individuals to manage their personal investments)

Personal Loans

Rates and Charges		Loan amount 5 lakh Tenure 5 years	Loan amount 1 lakh Tenure 5 years	(% of loan amount)
Name of Lender	**Interest Rate (%)**	**EMI (Rs)**	**EMI (Rs)**	**Processing fee**
HDFC Bank	9.99 onwards	10,621 onwards	2,124 onwards	Up to Rs 6,500
Tata Capital	11.50 onwards	10,996 onwards	2,199 onwards	Up to 3.5%
State Bank of India	10.05-15.05	10,636-11,908	2,127-2,382	Up to 1.5% (Min. Rs 1,000; Max. Rs 15,000)
ICICI Bank	10.60 onwards	10,772 onwards	2,154 onwards	Up to 2%
Bank of Baroda*	10.40-18.10	10,722-12,724	2,144-2,545	Up to 2% (Max. Rs 10,000)
Axis Bank	9.99-21.55	10,621-13,682	2,124-2,736	Up to 2%
Kotak Mahindra Bank	9.98 onwards	10,619 onwards	2,124 onwards	Up to 5%
Bank of India	11.10-16.15	10,896-12,199	2,179-2,440	Up to 1% (Min. Rs 250; Max. Rs 15,000)
Canara Bank	9.95-15.40	10,611-12,000	2,122-2,400	Up to 0.25% (Max. Rs 2,500)
Punjab National Bank	10.50-17.05	10,747-12,440	2,149-2,488	Up to 1%
HSBC Bank	9.99 onwards	10,621 onwards	2,124 onwards	Up to 2%
Federal Bank	11.99 onwards	11,120 onwards	2,224 onwards	Up to 3%
Union Bank of India	10.35-14.45	10,710-11,751	2,142-2,350	Up to 1% (Max. Rs 7,500)
Bajaj Finserv	10.00-31.00	10,624-16,485	2,125-3,297	Up to 3.93%
Punjab & Sind Bank	9.85-12.90	10,587-11,351	2,117-2,270	0.50%-1%
Indian Overseas Bank	10.50 onwards	10,747 onwards	2,149 onwards	Up to 0.75%
UCO Bank	10.20-13.45	10,673-11,492	2,135-2,298	Up to 1% (Min. Rs 750)
IDFC FIRST Bank	9.99 onwards	10,621 onwards	2,124 onwards	2%
Bank of Maharashtra	9.00-13.80	10,379-11,582	2,076-2,316	Up to 1% (Max. Rs 10,000)
Central Bank of India	9.90-11.80	10,599-11,072	2,120-2,214	Up to 1%

*Interest concession of 0.10% to customers opting for group credit life insurance.

Car Loans

Rates and Charges		Loan amount 5 lakh Tenure 5 years	(% of loan amount)
Name of Lender	**Interest Rate (%)**	**EMI (Rs)**	**Processing fee**
Union Bank of India	7.80-9.70	10,090 - 10,550	Up to Rs 1,000
Punjab National Bank	7.80-9.70	10,090 - 10,550	Up to 0.25% (Rs. 1,000 - Rs. 1,500)
Bank of Baroda	8.15-11.60	10,174 - 11,021	Up to Rs. 2,000
Canara Bank	7.70-11.70	10,067 - 11,047	100% waiver till 31.12.2025
Bank of India	7.85-12.15	10,102 - 11,160	Up to 0.25% (Rs. 2,500 - Rs. 10,000)
UCO Bank	7.60-10.25	10,043 - 10,685	NIL on car, EV loans till 31 Oct.
State Bank of India	8.75	10,319	NIL
Indian Overseas Bank	7.80-12.00	10,090 - 11,122	0.50% (Rs 500 - Rs 5,000)
ICICI Bank	8.50 onwards	10,258 onwards	Up to 2%
HDFC Bank	9.20 onwards	10,428 onwards	Up to 1% (Rs. 3,500 - Rs. 9,000)
Karnataka Bank	8.97-11.66	10,372 - 11,037	Up to 0.60% (Rs. 2,500 - Rs. 11,000)
Federal Bank	10.00 onwards	10,624 onwards	Rs. 2,000 - Rs. 4,500
Punjab and Sind Bank*	7.75-14.25	10,078 - 11,699	0.25% (Rs. 1,000 - Rs. 15,000)
Indian Bank	7.75-9.85	10,078 - 10,587	Rs. 1,000
IDFC FIRST Bank	9.99 onwards	10,621 onwards	Up to Rs. 10,000
Central Bank of India	7.85-9.45	10,102 - 10,489	0.50% of loan amount (Rs. 2,000 - Rs. 20,000) (No processing fees till 31.03.2026)

*Concession of up to 50% on processing fee for PSB Apna Vahan Sugam.
Rates and charges as on October 22
Source: Paisabazaar.com

PORT OF SPAIN

U.S. warship arrives in Trinidad and Tobago, near Venezuela

AFP

A U.S. warship arrived in Trinidad and Tobago on Sunday for joint exercises near the coast of Venezuela, as Washington ratcheted up pressure on drug traffickers and Venezuelan leader Nicolas Maduro. The *USS Gravely*, whose arrival was announced on Thursday by the Trinidadian government, docked in the capital, Port of Spain. AFP

BOGOTA

Colombian FARC dissidents vow to 'fight' U.S. invasion threat

AFP

FARC dissidents warned the U.S. that they would fight back against any "violations of Colombian sovereignty," after President Donald Trump threatened to launch ground operations to target drug traffickers. "We are used to fighting whoever we must. We have been staunch opponents of the American empire," it said. AFP

DHAKA

Top Pakistani military official meets Bangladesh leader Yunus

PTI

Pakistan's Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee Chairman Gen Sahir Shamshad Mirza has said Islamabad was willing to deepen ties with Dhaka as he met Bangladesh's interim government chief Muhammad Yunus . "Our two countries will support each other," Mr. Yunus said during the meeting, held at his official residence. PTI

PORT SUDAN

Sudan's paramilitary RSF claims full control of Darfur's El-Fasher

REUTERS

Sudan's paramilitary Rapid Support Forces said on Sunday that it had seized full control of El-Fasher, the last major urban centre in western Darfur still outside its hands. The announcement came just hours after the RSF claimed it had captured the Army's main base in the city, which it has besieged since May 2024. AFP

Trump hikes tariffs on Canada by an additional 10%

Agence France-Presse
ABOARD AIR FORCE ONE

U.S. President Donald Trump said on Saturday that he was hiking tariffs on Canadian goods by an additional 10%, in the latest fallout over a Canadian anti-tariff ad that featured late U.S. leader Ronald Reagan. The announcement came two days after Mr. Trump said he had terminated all trade talks with Canada.

The ad from the Canadian province of Ontario used quotes from a radio address that Reagan delivered in 1987, in which he warned against ramifications that high tariffs on foreign imports could have on the U.S. economy.

U.S., China say trade deal is drawing closer ahead of Trump-Xi meeting

China's top trade negotiator says two sides have reached a 'preliminary consensus', while U.S. Treasury Secretary says threat of additional higher tariffs on China was 'effectively off the table'; Trump signs deals with Cambodia, Thailand and Malaysia

Associated Press
KUALA LUMPUR

A trade deal between the U.S. and China is drawing closer, officials from the world's two largest economies said on Sunday as they reached an initial consensus for President Donald Trump and Chinese leader Xi Jinping to aim to finalise during their high-stakes meeting.

Beijing recently limited exports of rare earth elements that are needed for advanced technologies, and Mr. Trump responded by threatening additional tariffs on Chinese products. The prospect of a widening conflict risked weakening economic growth worldwide.

Common ground: Global leaders at the 13th ASEAN - United States Summit in Kuala Lumpur on Sunday. AFP

China's top trade negotiator, Li Chenggang, told reporters that the two sides had reached a "preliminary consensus," while Mr. Trump's Treasury Secretary, Scott Bessent, said there was "a very successful framework." Ms. Bessent told *CBS*'s *Face the Nation* that the threat of additional higher tariffs on China was "effectively off the table."

The Republican President is set to meet with Mr. Xi on Thursday in South Korea, the final stop of his trip through Asia.

The progress toward a potential agreement came during the annual summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, in Kuala Lumpur.

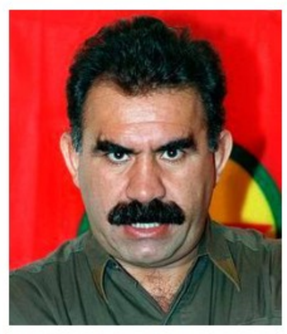
At the summit, Thailand and Cambodia signed an expanded ceasefire agreement during a ceremony attended by Mr. Trump. His threats of economic pressure prodded the two nations to halt skirmishes along their disputed border earlier this year.

The U.S. President signed economic frameworks with Cambodia, Thailand and Malaysia, some of them aimed at increasing trade involving critical minerals.

Mr. Trump met Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva in Kuala Lumpur. There has been friction between them over Brazil's prosecution of Jair Bolsonaro, the country's former President and a close Trump ally.

PKK to withdraw from Turkiye as part of disarmament

Reuters
QANDIL MOUNTAINS



Abdullah Ocalan

The Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) militant group said on Sunday it was withdrawing from Turkiye as part of a disarmament process being coordinated with the government, pressing Ankara to move ahead with steps allowing it to enter politics.

The PKK, which has waged an insurgency against the Turkish state since 1984, decided in May to disarm and disband after a call to end its armed struggle from its jailed leader Abdullah Ocalan. The fighting has killed more than 40,000 people.

In July, the outlawed group, which is designated a terrorist organisation by Turkiye, the U.S. and European Union, burned some weapons in a symbolic act of good faith.

In a statement read during an event in the Qandil Mountains, the group's stronghold in northern Iraq, the PKK said it had decided to withdraw all of its militants from Turkiye to lay the foundations for a "free, democratic and brotherly life". It said the step reflected the group's commitment to the disarmament and integration process, adding that the Turkish government should now pave the way for the PKK's transition into "democratic politics" by passing integration laws.

As a senior official read the statement aloud at Sunday's event, about two dozen PKK fighters stood in formation, with a large image of Mr. Ocalan prominently displayed in the background. "We are on the path to executing leader Ocalan's peace project," PKK spokesperson Zagros Hiwa told Reuters from Qandil. "Therefore, the other side, Turkiye, must carry out political changes and prepare a suitable environment for the project to be implemented," Mr. Hiwa said.

Drone strike kills three in Kyiv; Russia unveils new missile

Agence France-Presse
KYIV

An overnight Russian drone attack on Kyiv killed three persons and wounded dozens, the Mayor of the Ukrainian capital said on Sunday.

The head of Kyiv's military administration said early on Sunday that "several" Russian drones were operating over the city, and warned people to "remain in shelters".

Mayor Vitali Klitschko said later that "according to preliminary information, three people died and 27 were wounded" in the attack. The wounded included six children.

New ammo

Russia's President Vladimir Putin announced a successful final test of a new nuclear-powered cruise missile, the Burevestnik, amid Moscow's ongoing Ukraine offensive. "The decisive tests are now complete," Mr. Putin said in a video released by the Kremlin during a meeting with military officials. He ordered the preparation of "infrastructure to put this weapon into service in the Russian armed forces."

Mr. Putin called the missile a "unique creation that no one else in the world possesses", adding that the Burevestnik has "unlimited range". During the last test on October 21, the missile flew for some 15 hours, travelling 14,000 km, said Russia's military chief of staff Valery Gerasimov, adding this was not the upper limit for the weapon.

French officials arrest two suspects as part of Louvre jewel heist

Agence France-Presse
PARIS

One was about to leave the country for Algeria while the other was detained from the Paris region

French authorities have detained two of the suspected robbers believed to have stolen precious crown jewels from the Louvre in a museum heist that stunned the world, officials said on Sunday.

A swarm of investigators had been mobilised to track down the thieves who robbed the world-renowned museum in broad daylight on October 19, making off with jewellery worth an estimated $102 million in just a few minutes.

Paris prosecutor Laure Beccuau said they had "carried out arrests on Saturday evening".

"One of the men arrested was about to leave the country" from Paris-Charles de Gaulle airport, Ms. Beccuau said.

A source close to the case said the man was about to board a plane for Algeria.

The second man had been detained not long afterward in the Paris region, media reports said.

The two men could be held up to 96 hours.

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Fax: 080-28460367, Ph: 080-28072739
Website: www.rwf.indianrailways.gov.in

Tender Notice No. RWF/S/11/2025-26 Dated 24.10.2025

On behalf of the President of India, the **Principal Chief Materials Manager** invites Manual Global Tender from experienced OEMs/Manufacturers for supply of the item. You shall contact this office to obtain the Global Tender document and schedule of requirement by **e-mail: smm.rwfblr@gmail.com** Your quotation complete in all respects should reach the office of the Principal Chief Materials Manager, Rail Wheel Factory, Indian Railways, Yelahanka, Bengaluru-560064 (India) by return on or before due date.

Global Manual Tender No. P3255101
Brief Item Description: Hydraulic Cylinder
Quantity: 1 set.

Closing Date & Time for Tenders: 26.11.2025 at 14.00 Hrs.

Principal Chief Materials Manager

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Our client M/s.Karnataka Co-operative Oilseeds Growers' Federation Ltd. intends to purchase Kalpavriksha Oil Palm (P) Ltd, the lands described in the Schedule below and all the appurtenant structures hereinafter referred to as **"Schedule Properties"** free from all encumbrances upon verification of title and subject to the findings of due diligence.

Any person/s/ entities including any bank and/or financial institution having any claim, demand, share, right, title or interest in the Schedule Properties or part thereof and/or against the Owner/s and/or having any objection to the proposed transaction, in any manner including by way of sale, agreement for sale, allotment, lease, sub-lease, license, tenancy, sub-tenancy, transfer, assignment, exchange, mortgage (including by way of deposit of original title deeds), charge, loan, contract, agreement, memorandum of understanding, letter of intent or heads of terms, partnership, joint venture, development rights, development potential, gift, inheritance, bequest, succession, partition, possession, occupation, lien, easement, right of prescription or pre-emption or under any agreement or other disposition or under any suit, decree, injunction, order or attachment or award passed by any Court, Tribunal, Authority and/or any other forum, litigation, dispute, proceedings, lis pendens, decree or order of any adjudicating authority, family arrangement/settlement, power of attorney, or otherwise howsoever in any manner ("Claim"), must notify the undersigned with documentary proof thereof within 7 days of this publication failing which it shall be deemed that no person has any right, title or interest in the Schedule Property, our client shall proceed with the transaction and on the basis that the Schedule Property is unencumbered and any such Claims or objections shall be treated as waived, abandoned, and not binding on our client.

SCHEDULE (Description of the said Properties)

Location: Sarathi Grama, Harihara Kasaba Hobli Taluk, Davanagere District, Karnataka
Owner : Kalpavriksha Oil Palm (P) Ltd.

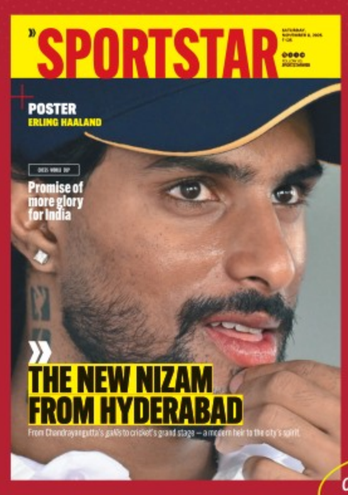
Sl.	Nature of land	Area	Revenue Survey No./Khatha
1	Non-Agricultural	3 acre 28 gunta	RS no. 92/1 Panchayath Khatha no.673
2	Agricultural	4 acre 29 gunta	RS no. 92/1
3	Agricultural	38 gunta	RS no. 97/3

Bangalore
Date: 27.10.2025

RAVI, SUNITA & SURI, Advocates
"SWATHI" No. 123, 6th Main, Between 12th & 13th Cross, Malleswaram, Bengaluru-560 003.

THE HINDU GROUP

FROM LONG RIDES TO LOFTED DRIVES



Before he cleared boundaries, Tilak Varma cleared hurdles— sixty kilometres at a time. Read how patience, grit, and a scooter ride shaped India's new batting star.

ON STANDS NOW!

Also in this issue:
Carl Lewis on the mindset of champions

India's finest chess prodigies plotting a grand conquest at the World Cup in Goa.

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GOVT. OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE: KEONJHAR
Identification No. NCB-25 / RWCKJR / 2025-26
No. 4516 // Date: 23.10.2025 /

1. Name of the work :- Repair / Maintenance of the Rural roads Constructed under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in the District of Keonjhar.
2. Total No. of Packages :- 02 (Two) Nos.
3. Estimated Cost (Approx.) :- From Rs.126.18 lakh to Rs.241.06 lakh (Approximately)
4. Period of completion :- 60 Calendar Months.
5. Other details :-

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	No. of Work	Availability of Tender On-line for bidding	
			From	To
1	2	3	4	5
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Keonjhar	NCB-25 / RWCKJR / 2025-26	02 Nos.	30.10.2025 at 11.00 A.M	13.11.2025 Upto 5.00 P.M

● Further details can be seen from the website: www.pmgsytenders.gov.in
Chief Construction Engineer, R.W. Circle, Keonjhar.
O-1176 : OIPR-25177/11/0102/2526

ସହକାରୀ ବୟନଶିଳ୍ପ ନିର୍ଦ୍ଦେଶକଙ୍କ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟାଳୟ ,ବୌଦ୍ଧ
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF TEXTILES, BOUDH
At/PO/Dist-Boudh-762014,Ph.No.-06841296260;E-mail: adtboudh@gmail.com

Notice No.2222 / Dated. 23.10.2025 /

QUOTATION CALL NOTICE FOR SKILL UPGRADATION TRAINING UNDER CAPACITY BUILDING

Sealed quotations are invited from the registered suppliers/manufacturers/dealers/firms having valid PAN and GST registration with up to date income Tax & GST Clearance certificate, for supply of the following tool kits for dyeing & equipments for Tie & Dye making for the Tie and dye making and Weaving Training to the trainees of Boudh Textiles Zone under **Capacity Building Component** of Promotion of Handloom Industries for the year 2024-25.

Interested suppliers may quote their lowest rate with detailed specification (material to be used/size/specification/ brand etc) in the enclosed proforma along with the copy of Registration Certificate, Income Tax Clearance Certificate, GST Registration and proof of execution of such orders earlier (if any), mentioning **"Quotation for Capacity Building"** on the top of the sealed envelope along with all documents and send it to the undersigned **by 5.30 P.M of Dt.11.11.2025** through Registered/Speed Post only. The quotation received either in incomplete form or after the due date & time will not be considered and treated as rejected.

For more details, terms & condition etc for supply of the items, please visit the official web site **www.sadhacodisha.org**, **www.boyanika.com**, **www.sambalpuribastralaya.com** or Boudh District administration - **www.boudh.gov.in** and may contact the **Assistant Director of Textiles, Boudh** in the above listed address, email & phone number.

The undersigned reserves the right to reject or accept any or all the quotations without assigning any reason thereof.

Assistant Director of Textiles, Boudh
PP-39: OIPR-31027/11/0004/2526

EMOTIONAL, BUT...

Devine happy about bowling alongside Bates in farewell ODI

K.R. DEEPAK

Sophie Devine's ODI career did not end on a positive note, but she saw the brighter side: having Suzie Bates bowling alongside her in the final moments. "It would have been nice if it was in different circumstances, but that's probably one of the good things about being a captain. You can decide what you want to do."

FINAL ACT

Nice to at least finish my career with the ball in hand: Devine

K.R. DEEPAK

Devine's final act in ODIs was "getting pumped for four" by England opener Amy Jones. "It was nice to be able to at least finish my career with the ball in hand. Jones could have at least patted one back to me… I got pumped for four. A reality check for me, just to see me on my way. But again, cricket doesn't owe you anything."

FINGERS CROSSED

Hopefully, Pratika will be fine for the semifinal: Harmanpreet

EMMANUAL YOGINI

Pratika (Rawal) is being monitored by the medical team. It's a very important game for us (semifinal). We have played very good cricket in the league matches and everyone has contributed which we'll carry forward. Hopefully, Pratika will also be fine for the next game — India captain Harmanpreet Kaur.

SUPER SHOW

Ayan sizzles as Patna Pirates overcome Pink Panthers' challenge

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Patna Pirates continued its good form with a 48-32 win over Jaipur Pink Panthers in Eliminator 1 of PKL-12 in New Delhi. Ayan Lohchab led the way with his fifth 20-plus points game, a feat only Pardeep Narwal and Devank Dalal have achieved in PKL history. Later in the Mini-Qualifier, Telugu Titans defeated Bengaluru Bulls 37-32.

Radha and Shree Charani excel before rain has the final say

The two left-arm spinners snare five Bangladesh batters; Sharmin top-scores for the Tigresses; injury scare for Pratika; the Women in Blue make three changes in their final league match ahead of the semifinal clash against Australia

ODI WORLD CUP

Amol Karhadkar
NAVI MUMBAI

Four major rain interruptions. Three changes to India's line-up. Two left-arm spinners coming good and one major injury scare for the home side were the highlights of the final league match of the Women's World Cup at the D.Y. Patil Stadium here on Sunday.

Ultimately, rain emerged as the winner. Bangladesh finished its rain-curtailed essay of 27 overs for 119 for nine, thus setting India a revised target of 126 runs. When the game was stopped at 10.05 pm – and the match called off 15 minutes later – an on-song Smriti Mandhana and her makeshift opening partner Amanjot Kaur had taken India to 57 for no loss inside nine overs.

Amanjot was forced to partner Smriti after Pratika Rawal twisted her knee and ankle while chasing a ball on the wet outfield in the 21st over, giving the Indian camp an injury scare ahead of Thursday's semifinal clash against Australia.

Game to savour: Radha, right, celebrates with Jemimah after running out Sultana. She also scalped three. EMMANUAL YOGINI

The result meant India finished fourth and Bangladesh seventh.

When the match finally began as a 43-over contest two hours behind schedule, Renuka Thakur dismissed Sumaiya Akter in the opening over while offie Deepti Sharma, operating from the other end, chipped in with a breakthrough in her fifth over.

Rain returned in the 13th over, forcing a 135-minute delay and a further reduction of overs. From 39 for two, Bangladesh relied on skipper Nigar Sultana to rebuild, but a sharp piece of fielding from Radha – a direct hit from point catching the latter short of her crease – broke the resistance.

Radha, in her maiden outing of the tournament, impressed by emerging as the highest wicket-taker, while Shree Charani scalped two. Earlier, India made three changes – Radha replaced Sneh Rana, Kranti Gaud made way for Amanjot, and Uma Chetry made her ODI debut in place of Richa Ghosh.

The scores: Bangladesh 119/9 in 27 overs (Sharmin Akhter 36, Shree Charani 2/23, Radha Yadav 3/30) vs. India 57/0 in 8.4 overs (Smriti Mandhana 34 n.o.).

Toss: India. No Result.

Semifinal line-up: Oct.29 England vs. South Africa, Guwahati; Oct. 30 Australia vs. India, Navi Mumbai.

Final Points table

	M	W	L	NR	PTS	NRR
Australia (Q)	7	6	0	1	13	2.102
England (Q)	7	5	1	1	11	1.233
South Africa (Q)	7	5	2	0	10	-0.379
India (Q)	7	3	3	1	7	0.628
Sri Lanka	7	1	3	3	5	-1.035
New Zealand	7	1	4	2	4	-0.876
Bangladesh	7	1	5	1	3	-0.578
Pakistan	7	0	4	3	3	-2.651

Q: Qualified

England dashes Kiwis' hopes of a perfect send-off for Devine

Sankar Narayanan E.H.
VISAKHAPATNAM

Clinical display: Opener Jones anchored the England chase to perfection. K.R. DEEPAK

England put a spanner in the works of New Zealand's plans to give skipper Sophie Devine a triumphant send-off, consigning it to an eight-wicket defeat in a Women's ODI World Cup fixture at the ACA-VDCA Stadium here on Sunday.

The White Ferns' total of 168 in 38.2 overs was never going to be enough – even though the pitch was taking turn with the odd ball staying low – as England cantered to a victory in 29.2 overs. Opener Amy Jones (86 n.o., 92b, 11x4, 1x6) showed impeccable composure and anchored the near-perfect run chase.

The story of the match, however, was not about in what manner Nat Sciver-Brunt & Co. reached 172 for two, but how their spinners dominated the Kiwis.

The tweakers accounted for seven of the 10 New Zealand wickets, with Sciver-Brunt (two for 31) and a run out completing the haul.

Linsey Smith (three for 30), who was struggling to grip the new ball, got her first wicket with a harmless waist-high full-toss as Suzie Bates failed to clear mid-off with her flat-batted slap.

Georgia Plimmer (43, 57b, 7x4) and Amelia Kerr (35, 43b, 5x4) put on 68 in 81 balls for the only meaningful partnership of the essay.

However, the New Zealand innings lost steam once Amelia and Plimmer got dismissed either side of Devine's entry into bat for the final time in ODIs.

The Kiwis then suffered a collapse, sliding from 155 for five to 168 all out. It was Devine's dismissal by her opposite number Sciver-Brunt for 23 which triggered the collapse.

The only matter of concern for England, especially ahead of the semifinals, was Sophie Ecclestone's injury scare. The 26-year-old had gone off the field after hurting her left shoulder while diving to stop a ball in the first over. The left-arm tweaker came back but could not complete the 23rd over even though she removed Brooke Halliday with her final ball of the match (0.4-0-4-1).

England's attention will now shift to South Africa and the last-four clash in Guwahati on Wednesday, whereas the White Ferns' top priority will be crafting a roadmap for the post-Devine era in their ODI set-up.

The scores: New Zealand 168 in 38.2 overs (Georgia Plimmer 43, Amelia Kerr 35, Linsey Smith 3/30) lost to England 172/2 in 29.2 overs (Amy Jones 86 n.o., Tammy Beaumont 40, Heather Knight 33).

Toss: NZ; **PoM:** Jones.

Opening salvo: Mbappe, right, fires in Real's first goal against Barcelona. AP

Real edges Barcelona; Arsenal extends lead

EURO LEAGUES

Agencies
MADRID

Jude Bellingham's goal helped Real Madrid beat Barcelona 2-1 to win a tense Clasico and move five points clear at the top of LaLiga on Sunday.

Kylian Mbappe fired Madrid in front and although Fermin Lopez levelled for the visitors, Bellingham netted the second before half-time which proved decisive.

The victory extended Arsenal's unbeaten run to six league matches and 10 games in all competitions, and opened up a four-point cushion over second-placed Bournemouth with 22 points after nine games.

Manchester City suffered its first loss since August as Matty Cash's first-half strike secured a 1-0 victory for Aston Villa, the hosts' fourth straight win in the competition.

On Saturday, Liverpool lost for the fourth consecutive game in the Premier League as Brentford beat the champion 3-2, while Manchester United posted a 4-2 victory over Brighton.

The results:
LaLiga: Real Madrid 2 (Mbappe 22, Bellingham 43) bt Barcelona 1 (Lopez 38).
Premier League: Arsenal 1 (Eze 39) bt Crystal Palace 0; Aston Villa 1 (Cash 19) bt Manchester City 0.
Bournemouth 2 (Tavernier 25, Kroupi 40) bt Forest 0.

On Saturday: Premier League: Manchester United 4 (Cunha 24, Casemiro 34, Mbeumo 61, 90+6) bt Brighton 2 (Welbeck 74, Kostoulas 90+2).
Brentford 3 (Ouattara 5, Schade 45, Thiago 60-pen) bt Liverpool 2 (Kerkez 45+5, Salah 89).
Seria A: Napoli 3 (De Bruyne 33-pen, McTominay 54, Anguissa 67) bt Inter Milan 1 (Calhanoglu 59-pen).
LaLiga: Valencia 0 lost to Villarreal 2 (Moreno 45-pen, Comesana 57).
Bundesliga: Borussia Dortmund 1 (Beier 90+6) bt Cologne 0.

Bengaluru Torpedoes reigns supreme

PVL

Anirudh Velamuri
HYDERABAD

Bengaluru Torpedoes capped off a fantastic season by clinching its maiden Prime Volleyball League title, beating Mumbai Meteors 15-13, 16-4, 15-13 in the final, on Sunday.

Meteors' blockers did well to put pressure on Jalen Penrose, who overhit a few shots early. However, the talismanic American quickly found his attacking boots, his smash down the line – which drew out a horde of Torpedoes flags for the first time in the game from the packed stands – one for the highlights reel. Shubham Chaudhary's super point went in vain after Penrose's cheekily-placed return put Torpedoes in front.

Mission accomplished: The Bengaluru Torpedoes squad with its big prize. SIDDHANT THAKUR

Meteors could barely regroup after going a set down, with Torpedoes using the momentum to put the squeeze on. They swiftly took a five-point lead and built on it, with Joel Benjamin and Matthew West at the heart of the team's best work. Abhinav Salar's consolation super point aside, Torpedoes barely put a foot wrong and raced to a 2-0 lead.

Norwegians Petter Ostvik and Mathias Loftesnes rallied the Meteors, but the Torpedoes denied them a comeback. In the end, the 'match of the season' turned into a coronation.

Torpedoes head coach David Lee summed up the contest, and the season, in the best way possible. "We overpowered them with serve, pass and pure heart."

Bidding adieu: Devine acknowledges the accolades. K.R. DEEPAK

Sophie Devine — a giant with tall deeds

Sankar Narayanan E.H.
VISAKHAPATNAM

A fierce competitor on the field and a quintessential humourist off it, a visibly emotional Sophie Devine fought back tears during her final ODI as the New Zealand national anthem echoed through the ACA-VDCA Stadium here on Sunday.

That was far from the only sentimental moment for the Kiwi legend during the course of the day.

Though she declined a guard of honour at the beginning of her farewell game, the 36-year-old had no option but to give in to the love showered by her teammates and England players by the end of the contest.

"Well, I'm not retiring from T20s just yet. I thought it would be a bit weird if they gave me a guard of honour and then I walk out for the next game. Maybe I should just keep doing it," said Devine with a smile at the post-match media interaction.

"I guess it's hard because I had made my announcement so early and everyone knows about it and they probably wanted to recognise it... or else I would have liked to just have gone under the radar and gone about my business like any other day," she said.

From a medium-pacer, batting at No. 11 on her ODI debut against Australia in 2006, Devine grew in stature as a leader and a formidable all-rounder.

With 4279 runs and 111 wickets in 159 ODIs, Devine bows out from the 50-over format as one of only three women to achieve the double of 4000 runs and 100 wickets.

In a tribute video posted on *Instagram* by the ICC, Devine had said: "I certainly hope that I am remembered as a competitive player."

No, Sophie, you have been much more than that.

Indians look to utilise the home advantage

CHENNAI OPEN

K. Keerthivasan
CHENNAI

The WTA Indian Open dates back to 2003. In the first six years till 2009 – three editions were held in Hyderabad and three in Bengaluru – the tournament had a lone high moment when Sania Mirza won the singles, in 2005, as a wild card.

Returning to Chennai after a gap of three years, the WTA 250 event, beginning on Monday, assumes significance for the simple reason that it's back. For the Indian players, it's huge as they know the value of a tournament happening at home given the financial and logistical hurdles they face while playing on the relentless Tour across the globe.

Ready for it: Top seed Sonmez will hope to go the distance. R. RAGU

As 23-year-old Shrivalli Bhamidipaty, ranked 328, said: "Taking on quality players gives us an opportunity to realise where we stand. We also get to be with them and learn."

Zeynep Sonmez of Turkiye, World No. 69 and the top seed, has been a trailblazer as she was the first – man or woman – from her country to reach the third round of a Grand Slam (Wimbledon 2025) in the Open era. This is the first time she's been seeded No. 1 in a 250 event.

In the previous edition here in 2022, Karman Thandi was the only Indian to make it to the second round in singles.

If either Shrivalli, Maaya Rajeshwaran or Sahaja Yamalapalli reach the business-end of the competition, it would do a world of good for Indian tennis.

Vaishnavi gets lucky

Vaishnavi Adkar, who lost in final qualifying, entered the main draw as one of the three lucky losers after Kiwi Lulu Sun, seeded eight, pulled out after reaching the final of the WTA 250 Guangzhou Open in China on Sunday.

INBRIEF

Devika finishes runner-up at Indonesia Masters Super 100

Indian shuttler Devika Sihag's fine run came to an end at the Indonesia Masters after losing the women's singles final to former World champion Nozomi Okuhara of Japan in Jakrata on Sunday. The 20-year-old, who had captured the Malaysia International Challenge title in August, went down 11-21, 9-21 to the top-seeded Okuhara.

Anahat makes pre-quarters of Canadian Open

Reigning National champion Anahat Singh beat Switzerland's Cindy Merlo 11-3, 11-3, 11-4 to enter the round-of-16 at the Canadian Women's Open squash in Toronto.

Arvind and Harish star in BoB's win over DYES

Arvind (25 points) and Harish (22 points) helped Bank of Baroda defeat DYES Bangalore 91-77 in the State 'A' division basketball league in Bengaluru on Sunday.

The results: Southern Blues 90 (Venkat 12, Dhruva 12) bt Beagles BC 83 (Achintya 25, Pratham 22); MNK Rao Park BC 76 (Ajin 22, Venkat 12) bt Vivek's SC 66 (Mukesh 21, Vinod 14); Bank of Baroda 91 (Arvind 25, Harish 22) bt DYES Bangalore 77 (Kushal 15, Adarsh 15).

India u-20 women edge past Kazakhstan u-19 in friendly

The India under-20 women's football team began its preparatory tour of Kazakhstan on a winning note, defeating Kazakhstan u-19 3-2 in the first of two friendly matches in Shymkent on Saturday. Sibani Devi Nongmeikapam opened the scoring in the second minute before Anju Chanu Kayenpaibam doubled the lead in the 15th minute. Kazakhstan pulled one back through Zhanel Talasbayeva's penalty in the 23rd, but Pooja restored India's advantage before half-time. Nazym Aldanazar converted another penalty late in the game for the host.

Hansika, Sarika win silver; Parvinder loses bronze bout

Hansika Lamba and Sarika Malik won silver medals at the under-23 World wrestling championships in Novi Sad (Serbia) on Saturday. While Hansika lost the 53kg title clash 0-4 to Japan's Haruna Morikawa, Sarika put up a good fight before losing 1-2 to another Japanese, Ruka Natami. India finished with seven medals in the women's competition. In men's freestyle, Pravinder (74kg) lost the bronze playoff 2-8 to Japan's Yoshinosuke Aoyagi.

Srishti caps impressive run with first international title

Srishti Kiran won her maiden international junior title, clinching the ITF J30 with a 6-2, 6-2 victory over top seed Stephanie Pumar of Venezuela at Cabarete, Dominican Republic, on Saturday. The triumph capped an impressive run for Srishti who had shocked second seed Arina Vansovich of Russia 6-2, 6-3 in the pre-quarterfinals.

Hyderabad races scheduled for Monday cancelled

The Stewards of the Hyderabad Race Club (HRC) have resolved to cancel the races to be held on Monday, October 27, due to administrative reasons. However, the Golconda St. Leger has been postponed and its new date will be announced in due course.

LIVE TELECAST

Ranji Trophy: JioHotstar, 9.30 a.m.
Bangladesh vs West Indies: 1st T20I, FanCode, 5.30 p.m.
PKL: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & JioHotstar, 8 p.m.
LaLiga: FanCode, 1.30 a.m. (Tuesday)

Karun's big, unbeaten ton powers Karnataka on rain-affected day

The India star notches up his 25th First Class century and puts on a valuable 60-run partnership to boost the hosts' total against Goa

RANJI TROPHY

N. Sudarshan
SHIVAMOGGA

On a frustrating, rain-marred second day of the 2025-26 Ranji Trophy Elite Group-B match between Karnataka and Goa, only 54.1 overs' play was possible, with the hosts making 371 first-innings runs and the visitors 28 for one in reply.

If the on-time start at 9.30 a.m. raised hopes of a full day's cricket, it proved deceptive at best as a heavy downpour 20 minutes before tea and another round of pitter-patter rain an hour later ushered in the close.

With just two days left and more grey skies forecast, the contest will most likely be reduced to a battle for the first-innings lead.

Shining bright: Karun stood tall amidst the gloom and doom to hold the Karnataka innings together. N. SUDARSHAN

But amidst the gloom and doom, Karun Nair stood tall, conjuring his 25th First Class ton (174 n.o., 267b, 14x4, 3x6) to hold Karnataka together.

From an overnight score of 86, Karun reached his century in 163 balls, before turning expansive and getting his next 50 runs in only 74 balls.

Karun lost Shreyas Gopal early in the morning for 57 (109b, 6x4, 1x6) and watched all-rounder Yashovardhan Parantap fall to a reckless heave that was snapped up at mid-off.

But in pacer V. Vyshak, he found an able ally, and the duo came together for a 60-run partnership.

Vyshak (31, 53b, 4x4) even outscored his senior colleague, showcasing a few elegant shots square of the wicket on the off-side.

Smashing Tendulkar

However, once he departed – leg-before to left-arm spinner Darshan Misal – on the stroke of lunch, Karun took over the mantle with just the two tail-enders Abhilash Shetty and Vidwath Kaverappa for company.

In one Arjun Tendulkar over, he smashed 17 runs, including two sixes over square-leg and a boundary, to go past 150.

But some muddled thinking from Kaverappa, as he attempted a non-existent double to hand the strike back to Karun and ended up running himself out, brought the innings to a stuttering end.

The scores:
Karnataka — 1st innings: Nikin Jose c Khutkar b Arjun 3, Mayank Agarwal c Kauthankar b Koushik 28, K.L. Shrijith c Dubhashi b Arjun 0, Karun Nair (not out) 174, R. Smaran c Tejrana b Koushik 3, Abhinav Manohar c Koushik b Arjun 37, Shreyas Gopal c Kauthankar b Vijesh 57, Yashovardhan Parantap c Vijesh b Koushik 14, V. Vyshak lbw b Misal 31, Abhilash Shetty c Tejrana b Misal 2, Vidwath Kaverappa run out 0; Extras: (b-5, lb-9, nb-6, w-2): 22; Total (in 110.1 overs): 371.
Fall of wickets: 1-18, 2-26, 3-47, 4-65, 5-128, 6-245, 7-271, 8-331, 9-342.
Goa bowling: Arjun 29-6-100-3, Koushik 27.1-11-35-3, Vijesh 20-3-86-1, Misal 18-0-74-2, Redkar 9-0-35-0, Suyash 4-0-8-0, Lalit Yadav 3-0-19-0.
Goa — 1st innings: Manthan Khutkar c Shrijith b Abhilash 9, Suyash Prabhudessai (batting) 11, Abhinav Tejrana (batting) 8; Total (for one wkt. in 13 overs): 28.
Fall of wicket: 1-9.
Karnataka bowling: Kaverappa 6-1-11-0, Abhilash 5-2-9-1, Parantap 1-0-3-0, Vyshak 1-0-5-0.

RANJI SCORES, ROUND 2 (DAY 2)

Elite: Group A: At Vizianagaram: Baroda 363 in 109 overs (Vishnu Solanki 131, A Sheth 86, Mahesh Pithiya 54, K. Saiteja 4/71, K. Saiteja 4/28) vs. Andhra 43/2 in 16 overs.
Kanpur: Odisha 243 vs. Uttar Pradesh 262/3 in 86 overs (Madhav Kaushik 67, Karan Sharma 83 batting, Aaradhya Yadav 80 batting).
Bengaluru: Tamil Nadu 512/3 decl. in 115 overs (R. Vimal Khumar 189, Pradosh Ranjan Paul 201 n.o., Andre Siddarth 65) vs. Nagaland 150/4 in 58 overs (D. Nischal 80 batting, Yugandhar 58 batting, Gurjapneet Singh 4/34).
Nagpur: Jharkhand 332 in 125.3 overs (Shikhar Mohan 60, Sharandeep Singh 69, Ishan 45, Bhute 4/41) vs. Vidarbha.
Group B: Chandigarh: Maharashtra 313 & 66/0 in 11 overs (Prithvi Shaw 41 batting) vs. Chandigarh 209 in 73 overs (Raman Bishnoi 54, Nishunk Birla 56 n.o., Vicky Ostwal 6/40).
Shivamogga: Karnataka 371 in 110.1 overs (Karun Nair 174 n.o., Shreyas Gopal 57) vs. Goa 28/1 in 13 overs.
Rajkot: Saurashtra 260 in 88.4 overs (Chirag Jani 82, Aryan Pandey 4/31, Kumar Kartikeya Singh 4/84) vs. Madhya Pradesh 195/4 in 78 overs (Yash Dubey 109 batting).
New Chandigarh: Punjab 436 in 163.4 overs (Harnoor Singh 170, Prerit Dutta 72, Mayank Markande 48 n.o.) vs. Kerala 15/1 in 7 overs.
Group C: Kolkata: Bengal 279 in 80.4 overs (Sudip Kumar Gharami 56, Abishek Porel 51, Sumanta Gupta 63, S.A. Desai 4/69) vs. Gujarat 107/7 in 53.3 overs (M.A. Hingrajia 41 batting, Shahbaz 4/17).
Tinsukia: Assam 103 & 75 in 29.3 overs (Arjun Sharma 4/20) lost to Services 108 & 73/2 in 13.5 overs. **Points:** Services 6, Assam 0.
Lahli: Tripura 126 & 47 in 19.1 overs (Parth Vats 5/14) lost to Haryana 158 in 43.1 overs (Dheeru Singh 40, Swapnil Singh 7/66) & 18/1 in 4.3 overs. **Points:** Haryana 6, Tripura 0.
Ramnagar: Railways 333 in 120 overs (Vivek Singh 44, Mohammad Saif 131, B.H. Merai 89 n.o., Mayank Mishra 6/84) vs. Uttarakhand 122/2 in 50 overs (Kunal Chandel 50).
Group D: Puducherry: Hyderabad 435 in 134.5 overs (Tanmay Agarwal 50, Rahul Singh Gahlaut 114, K. Himateja 66, Rahul Radesh 81, Sagar Udeshi 4/110) vs. Pondicherry 25/1 in 9 overs.
Mumbai: Mumbai 406/8 in 130 overs (Ajinkya Rahane 159, S.D. Lad 80, Akash Anand 60 n.o., A.A. Sarvate 4/103) vs. Chhattisgarh.
Srinagar: Rajasthan 152 & 41/5 in 20 overs (Auqib Nabi 5/5) vs. Jammu & Kashmir 282 in 70.4 overs (Abdul Samad 76, Yudhvir Singh 53, Auqib Nabi 55, D.L. Chahar 4/39).
New Delhi: Delhi 430 in 116 overs (Arpit Rana 64, Sanat Sangwan 79, Yash Dhull 61, Ayush Doseja 75, Sumit Mathur 51, Anuj Rawat 57, Vaibhav Arora 4/78, Arpit Guleria 4/106) vs. Himachal Pradesh 165/3 in 55 overs (S.R. Purohit 70, A.K. Bains 43).
Plate: Shillong: Sikkim 346 in 96 overs (A.B. Rajera 51, Gurinder Singh 129, Kranthi Kumar 95, Akash Kumar 5/85) vs. Meghalaya 271/2 in 76 overs (Arpit Subhas 132 batting, Kishan Lyndoh 102 batting).
Nadiad: Manipur 387/6 in 117 overs (Ulenyai Khwairakpam 42, M. Ronald 41, Johnson 41, K. Priyojit 186 n.o., A.L. Bashid 45) vs. Bihar.
Ahmedabad: Arunachal Pradesh 187 vs. Mizoram 389/6 in 115 overs (Sahil Reza 65, Armaan Jaffer 144, Thankhuma 46, Muanzuala 55 n.o.).

'After the last two years I've had, I think I deserved a lot better... more than a series'

N. Sudarshan
SHIVAMOGGA

Getting dropped from the Indian national cricket team is like being pushed off a cliff. You do the hard yards and climb all the way up to the top, only for a lapse or two to cost you dear.

Karun Nair is the latest to experience this harsh reality.

After two glorious seasons for Vidarbha, during which he totalled 1553 runs and helped his side win the Ranji Trophy last season, he received an India call-up after seven years for this summer's tour to England.

But the 205 runs he made from eight innings at 25.62 with one half-century weren't enough for him to feature in the recent two-Test series against the West Indies. Worse, Karun has not even been picked in the India-A squad that will take on South Africa-A in two multi-day matches from October 30.

"Obviously, it is quite disappointing," the 33-year-old said, on the sidelines of Karnataka's Ranji Trophy match against Goa, here on Sunday.

"After the last two years I've had, I think I deserved a lot better. More than a series. There are certain individuals in the [Indian] team who have had good conversations with me about how they felt. That's about it."

It was creditable that he shook off the disappointment and made a fine century versus Goa (174 n.o., 267b, 14x4, 3x6).

Getting affected

"It does get into the head. But the second thought would be to do your job, which is to score runs and let people have their opinions," Karun stated.

"Honestly, what target can I have next? All I want to do is to play for the country.

"If you're not able to do that, the next thing would be to try and win games for the side you are playing for."

SNAPSHOTS

Memorable outing: The Indian contingent wrapped up with two gold, one silver and two bronze medals. @BAI_MEDIA

Shaina and Diksha claim gold

CHENGDU (CHINA): India recorded its best-ever showing at the Badminton Asia under-17 and under-15 Championships as Shaina Manimuthu and Diksha Sudhakar clinched gold medals in their respective categories on Sunday.
In the under-15 girls' singles final, Shaina overcame Japan's Chiharu Tomita 21-14, 22-20, while Diksha outclassed compatriot Lakshya Rajesh 21-16, 21-9 to take the under-17 girls' singles crown.
The Indian contingent wrapped up the continental event with two gold, one silver and two bronze medals – its best-ever haul at the championships.

Mitchell, Bracewell fifties trump Brook's century

TAURANGA: New Zealand overcame a brilliant century from England skipper Harry Brook (135, 101b, 9x4, 1x6) to beat England by four wickets on Sunday in the opening game of their three-match One-Day International series, with Daryl Mitchell and Michael Bracewell scoring half-centuries while chasing down a target of 224 in 37 overs. Brook surpassed his previous best score of 110 not out notched up last year.
The scores:
England 223 in 35.2 overs (Brook 135, Overton 46, Foulkes 4/41, Duffy 3/55) lost to New Zealand 224/6 in 36.4 overs (Mitchell 76 n.o., Bracewell 51, Carse 3/45).
Toss: New Zealand. **PoM:** Brook.

Miracle Star bags the Mysore Derby

MYSURU: J.E. Mckeown-trained Miracle Star (Suraj Narredu up) won the Mysore Derby 2025 (2,000m), the chief event of the races held here on Sunday (Oct 26). The winner is owned by M/s. Radiant Blood Stock rep, by Mrs. Sharmila Padmanabhan & the estate of late Mr. S. Padmanabhan.
Suraj, confidently, kept the gutsy filly in fourth position till the bend before manoeuvring the home stretch. Miracle Star responded tremendously to the reminders and galloped with giant strides to overtake the longtime leader Matisee near 200m, and win resolutely.

1. ROYAL CALCUTTA TURF CLUB TROPHY (DIV. II), (1,100M): CHISOX (Aleemuddin) 1, Sunway Lagoon (H. Rahul) 2, N R I Millennium (I. Chisty) 3 and Sheer Bliss (Akshay) 4. Not run: Astapor and Meghann. Lnk, 5-1/2 and 1-12. 1m, 6.07. ₹47 (w), 14, 12 and 16 (p). Shp: 30, Thp: 36, Fc: 174, Q: 63. Tri: 547/373. Exacta: 875/253. Favourite: Sunny Lagoon. Owners: Dr. C.N. Devayya, Mr. Abhishek Naharaj, Mr. M. Sudheer Reddy & Mr. Mohammed Abdul Reheem. Trainer. Pradeep.

2. DELHI RACE CLUB TROPHY (1,200M): COOL WINTER (A. Bandal) 1, Emeraldo (S.G. Prasad) 2, True Gold (V. Vishwa) 3 and Czarevitch (Abishek Mhatre) 4. 2-1/2, 1 and 3/4. 1m, 13.16. ₹20 (w), 19, 20 and 10 (p). Shp: 63, Thp: 73, Fc; 164, Q: 123, Tri; 1,340/400. Exacta; 5661/4,853. Favourite: Cool Winter. Owner: Mr. Suchit Jayaraj Shah. Trainer: M. Bobby.

3. ROYAL CALCUTTA TURF CLUB TROPHY (DIV.I), (1,100M): SMILE OF BEAUTY (Prabhu K) 1, Master Way (Asirvatham 2, Amazing Attraction (Aleemuddin) 3 and Choice (Faiz) 4. Not run: SD. Queen. 4, 3/4 and 2-3/4. 1m, 4.76. ₹21 (w), 12, 17 and 21 (p). Shp: 91, Thp: 39, Fc; 407. Q: 481. Tri: 931/351. Exacta: 2,843/1,218. Favourite: Immortal Beauty. Owner: Mr. Prakash Kishan Srivastava. Trainer: M. Bobby.

4. MADRAS RACE CLUB TROPHY (DIV. I), (1,400M): N R I VICTORY (Pavan) 1, Bellavita (P. Trevor), Natural One (G. Vivek) and Supreme Success (Darshan) 4. 1-1/2, 3/4 and 2-1/4. 1m, 23.62. ₹78 (w), 13, 12 and 28 (p). Shp: 27, Thp: 57, Fc; 324, Q: 156, Tri: 2,280/1,564. Exacta: 14,489/8,279. Favourite: Bellavita. Owner: Mr. Ravinder Reddy Male. Trainer: Md. Sajid.

5. ROYAL WESTERN INDIA TURF CLUB TROPHY (1,200M): BEZAWADA SULTAN (S. Sachin) 1, Magic Circle (Rozario), Super Sapphire (G. Prasad) 3 and Agera (Anish A). Not run: Moonlight Queen and Stravinsky. Nk, 4-1/2 and Nk. 1m, 10.96. ₹44 (w), 12, 12 and 54 (p). shp: 37, Thp: 101, Fc; 442, Q; 183, Tri: 7,397/15,638. Exacta: 20,818. Favourite: Golden Time. Owner: Mr. Mohammad abdul Raheem. Trainer: Joseph B.

6. BANGALORE TURF CLUB TROPHY (1,200M): GOLDEN KITE (Hundu S) 1, Don Carlos (P. Trevor) 2, Decacorn (K. Sai Kiran) and Knotty Blush (Akshay) 4. 1/2, Lnk and 1. 1m, 10.25. ₹71 (w), 20 and 12 (p). Shp: 23, Thp: 49, Fc: 459, Tri: 1,864/ 999. Exacta: 3,232/ 1,385. Favourite: Knotty Blush. Owner: Mr. Kunal N Sharma. Trainer. Aditya K.

7. MYSORE DERBY - 2025 (2,000M): MIRACLE STAR (EXCELLENT ARTROMANTIC STAR) (Suraj Narredu) 1, Red Bishop (Kingda Ka-Solar Midnight) (P. Trevor) 2, Mahler (Moonlight Magic-La Rondine) (G. Vivek) 3 and Unforgettable Star (Roderic O' Connor-Nostalgic Memories) (Yash) 4. 7-3/4, 1-1/4 and 2-3/4. 2m, 01.36. ₹24 (w), 10, 10 and 27 (p). Shp: 20. Thp: 57, Fc: 34, Q: 14, Tri: 205/200, Exacta: 822/3030, Favourite: Red Bishop. Owners: Ms. Radiant Blood Stock rep. by Mrs. Sharmila S. Padmanabhan & the estate of late Mr. S. Padmanbhan.

8. HYDERABAD RACE CLUB TROPHY (1,400M): MONTERIO (Rosario) 1, Fortis (Akshay) 2, Knotty Scotty (Antony) 3 and Eternal Glory (Darshan) 4. 2-3/4, 1 and 4-1/2. 1m, 22.98. ₹46 (w), 16, 16 and 10 (p). Shp: 28, Thp: 83. Fc: 436, Q: 188. Tri: 436/139. Exacta: 1,245/1,334. Favourite: Knotty Scotty. Owner: Mr. V. Shankar. Trainer: Pradeep.

9. MADRAS RACE CLUB TROPHY (DIV. II), (1,400M): TEFILLAH (Askahy) 1, Purple Martini (K. Rajesh) 1, Star Symphony (P. Ajeeth K) 3 and Noble Pursuit (H. Rahul) 4. Not run: CR Seven and Ankush. 2-1/4, 2-1/4 and 3. 1m, 25.58. ₹29 (w), 15, 35 and 13 (p). Shp: 118, Thp: 45, Fc: 1178, Q: 472, Tri: 2,143/524, Exacta: 1,245/1,334. Favourite: Star Symphony. Owners: Mr. Mukul Sonawala, m/s. So Blast Trading Cp., Mr. Girish Mehta & m/s. DT Racing & Breeding rep. by D. R. Thacker. Trainer: D. Byramji.

Jkt: ₹40,403 (two tkts.); Runner-up: 5,424 (four tkts.); Mini Jkt: 8,737 (carried over); Tr (i): 773 (one tkt.); (ii): 2,830 (carried over); (iii): 447 (11 tkts.).

Happy faces: Jockey Suraj Narredu, trainer James Mckeown, Miracle Star's owner Sharmila Padmanabhan, H.K. Ramesh (Steward), Chairman & Senior Steward G. Venkatesh with the trophies awarded to Mysore Derby winning team. M.A. SRIRAM